

AGENDA ITEM

MAY 134

DATE: April 25, 2011

TO: Members, Member Oversight Committee
Members, Board of Governors

FROM: Wesley H. Avery, Chair, Board of Legal Specialization
Gayle Murphy, Senior Executive, Admissions
Natalie Leonard, Director, Legal Specialization

SUBJECT: **Board of Legal Specialization Annual Report – Report and Filing with the California Supreme Court**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Rule 9.35, California Rules of Court, the State Bar of California is charged with administering a program for certifying legal specialists under rules adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program, defines program activities and identifies problem areas. It is submitted to the California Supreme Court in compliance with section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists* and is intended to aid the Court in its continued review of the Legal Specialization Program.

Board members with questions on this item may contact Gayle Murphy at (415) 538-2322; gayle.murphy@calbar.ca.gov or Natalie Leonard at (415) 538-2118; natalie.leonard@calbar.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Rule 9.35, California Rules of Court, the State Bar of California is charged with administering a program for certifying legal specialists under rules adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program, defines program activities and identifies problem areas. It is submitted to the California Supreme Court in compliance with section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists* and is intended to aid the Court in its continued review of the Legal Specialization Program.

ISSUE

Whether the Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, which covers the period from 1/1/10 through 12/31/10, should be approved by the Board of Governors for transmittal to the California Supreme Court.

CONCLUSION

The Report should be approved by the Board for transmittal to the California Supreme Court.

DISCUSSION

Enclosed is the 24th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, which covers the period from 1/1/10 through 12/31/10. Pursuant to Rule 9.35, California Rules of Court, the State Bar of California is charged with administering a program for certifying legal specialists under rules adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program, defines program activities and identifies problem areas. It is submitted to the California Supreme Court in compliance with section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists* and is intended to aid the Court in its continued review of the Legal Specialization Program.

The report was reviewed by the Board of Legal Specialization during its last meeting and it was approved for transmittal to the Court, subject to approval by the Board of Governors.

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

None

RULE AMENDMENTS:

None

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION

In order that the report may be sent to the California Supreme Court as required, it is recommended that the Board Committee on Member Involvement, Relations and Services and the Board of Governors approve the report.

PROPOSED BOARD COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Should the Member Oversight Committee agree with the above recommendation, the following resolution would be appropriate:

RESOLVED, that the Member Oversight Committee recommends that the Board approve the 24th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and that the report be transmitted to the California Supreme Court as required by section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists*.

PROPOSED BOARD RESOLUTION:

Should the Board concur with the Member Oversight Committee's recommendation, the following resolution would be in order:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Member Oversight Committee, the Board hereby approves the 23rd Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and directs that the report be transmitted to the California Supreme Court as required by section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists*.