

General Information

To be admitted to practice law in California, a foreign attorney must:

- Register as a Foreign Attorney applicant by submitting a Registration Application in the [Applicant Portal](#), along with a current, original Certificate of Good Standing issued within the last six months;
- Register and pass the [Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination](#);
- Apply for and receive a positive [moral character](#) determination;
- Apply for, take, and pass the [California Bar Examination](#);
- Be in compliance with any court order for child or family support; and
- Be certified for admission, placed on the motion, and take the [attorney's oath](#) within five years of passing the bar exam.

Mission

The State Bar of California's mission is to protect the public and includes the primary functions of licensing, regulation and discipline of attorneys; the advancement of the ethical and competent practice of law; and support of efforts for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system.

Established in 1927, the State Bar is guided by its core values of clarity, investing in our people, excellence, respect, and a growth mindset.

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The State Bar of California

Foreign Legal Consultants Program





About the FLC Program

The Foreign Legal Consultants (FLC) Program allows active attorneys who are in good standing and admitted to practice in a foreign jurisdiction to provide legal advice in California pertaining to the laws of their jurisdiction.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the FLC program, you must have:

- An active license and be in good standing to practice law in a foreign country for at least four of the last six years immediately preceding submission of the FLC application;
- Practiced the law of the foreign country in which you are admitted;
- A valid positive moral character determination from the State Bar of California; and
- Submitted all pertinent applications and supporting documentation as detailed in the “Application” section of this brochure.

Application

FLC applications may take 7 to 10 months to process because a positive moral character determination is required before approval into the FLC program. To apply:

- Submit a registration application in the Applicant Portal to register as a foreign attorney applicant; also submit an acceptable Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) for all jurisdictions where admitted. An official translation must accompany any CGS that is not in English.
- After your registration is approved, submit an application for the FLC Program in the Applicant Portal with the following documents:
 - Evidence of security for claims that meets the minimum requirements stated in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.
 - A letter of recommendation from an authorized representative who meets the stipulated requirements in rule 3.401(A)(4) of the Rules of the State Bar.
- Submit an Application for Determination of Moral Character in the Applicant Portal. A positive moral character determination is required before an FLC application can be approved.

Note: You may not practice as an FLC until the State Bar has approved your application and issued you an FLC certificate of registration.

Renewal

Every February, an FLC must:

- Submit a completed renewal application and pay the renewal fee in the Applicant Portal;
- Provide current proof of security for claims; and
- Mail in a current CGS from the foreign jurisdiction in which they are admitted.

An FLC who fails to submit an annual renewal application will be suspended from the program.

Avoid UPL

To avoid engaging in the unauthorized practice of law (UPL) in California, an FLC cannot provide the following legal services pursuant to rule 9.44 of the California Rules of Court:

- Appear for a person other than yourself as an attorney in any court, or before any magistrate or other judicial officer, in this state, or prepare pleadings or any other papers or issue subpoenas in any action or proceeding brought in any court or before any judicial officer;
- Prepare any deed, mortgage, assignment, discharge, lease, or any other instrument affecting title to real estate located in the United States;
- Prepare any will or trust instrument affecting the disposition on death of any property located in the United States and owned by a resident or any instrument relating to the administration of a decedent's estate in the United States;
- Prepare any instrument in respect of the marital relations, rights, or duties of a resident of the United States, or the custody or care of the children of a resident; or
- Otherwise render professional legal advice on the law of the state of California or any jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction named in satisfying the requirements of rule 9.49(c).

Note: You may not claim in any way to be a licensee of the State Bar of California and must use the title “Registered Foreign Legal Consultant.” Failure to comply with program requirements will result in termination.