



# CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

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## POST-EXAMINATION APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION Immigration and Nationality Law Certified Specialist (Filing Fee - \$300)

Applicants who have successfully passed the 2015 legal specialist examination must submit this application along with the required \$300 filing fee by **April 27, 2017** or submit a request for an extension to [legalspec@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:legalspec@calbar.ca.gov) by that date. The most common reason for an extension is to gain the five required years of practice in the specialty. Extensions cannot be granted beyond January 31, 2019.

Interested applicants who have not passed a legal specialist examination should visit [www.californiaspecialist.org](http://www.californiaspecialist.org) for up-to-date examination information and to review the rules and standards applicable to your specialty area.

### POST EXAM ELIGIBILITY

1. I passed the Legal Specialist Examination administered in October \_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

2. Name (exactly as it appears on your State Bar Profile)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Address (as it appears on your State Bar Profile)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

6. E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### LICENSE/CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

7. List all jurisdictions in which you are licensed or have been licensed to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Bar Card/ I.D. Number	Date Admitted

8. List any professional licenses or legal certification(s) you may have previously obtained:

Professional Organization	Professional License (i.e. CPA)	Date of Licensing/ Certification

**PRACTICE REQUIREMENT**

9. Check the box below that applies to your time in practice in the specialty area, adding additional documentation if requested:

I have practiced law continuously for the last five years, during which I devoted an average of at least 25% of the time to practice in the specialty area.

While I have had breaks in practice over the last five years, I have practiced law for at least five years, and have devoted an average of at least 25% of the time to practice in the specialty area during at least five years. (Please attach a letter summarizing your time in practice, including the nature and frequency of practice in the specialty area.)

I have not yet practiced in the specialty areas for five years, but I believe I have met the remaining requirements for certification in the specialty area, and I understand that while processing on my file will begin, certification will not take place until I have been practicing in the specialty area for at least five years for at least 25% of the time. (Please attach a letter summarizing your time in practice, including the nature and frequency of practice in the specialty area.)

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

10. The following is a complete statement of my employment since my admission to practice law:

LIST MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT FIRST. ATTACH SEPARATE SHEETS IF NECESSARY  
CHECK HERE IF ADDITIONAL SHEETS ARE ATTACHED.

<b>Dates of Employment</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Employer's Address</b>	<b>Nature of Employment (summarize nature of work performed)</b>

**DISCIPLINE**

11. Since your admission to the State Bar of California

- a. Have you been disbarred, suspended or disciplined by the State Bar of California or similar attorney disciplinary authority or any other authority that imposes professional discipline in California, or in another state or jurisdiction, including a foreign jurisdiction? Yes      No
- b. Do you have any discipline charges pending as described above? Yes      No
- c. Have you had any felony convictions? Yes      No
- d. Did you resign from any bar, court or body before whom you appear? Yes      No
- e. Have there been three or more judgments of professional negligence against you? (If yes, please attach the relevant documents.) Yes      No
- f. Have any sanctions, other than discovery sanctions, been entered against you by any court or body before whom you appear? Yes      No
- g. Have any findings of contempt been made against you by any court or body before whom you appear? Yes      No

**IF YOU ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, YOU MUST PROVIDE FULL DETAILS ON A SEPARATE SHEET. A record of discipline or failure to disclose any of the information requested above may constitute grounds for denial of your application.**

**DECLARATION**

I hereby authorize all educational institutions, governmental agencies and instrumentalities (including bar associations and bar examiners of other jurisdictions), employers and business and professional associates (past and present), to release to the California Board of Legal Specialization ("CBLs") and/or its agents or advisors any non-privileged information, files or records requested by them for the purpose of processing this application. The foregoing release does not apply to matters communicated by me in confidence to any lawyer, spouse, physician, psychotherapist or clergyperson for which I have privilege of nondisclosure under the provisions of Chapter 4, Division 8 of the California Evidence Code.

I further authorize the CBLs to conduct independent inquiry and review, including contacting the references I provide and other references within the discretion of the CBLs and agree that neither I nor my agents will seek to review the materials collected during the evaluation of my application.

I agree to pay all fees required by the California Board of Legal Specialization when due.

I agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the California Board of Legal Specialization as amended from time to time and to furnish to the Board and the Immigration and Nationality Law Advisory Commission, such information as they may require, to determine my entitlement to certification.

I am the applicant herein for certification as an immigration and nationality law specialist under the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists. I fully understand that failure to make a truthful disclosure of any fact, item or information required may result in the denial of my application, revocation of my certificate of specialization, or disciplinary action by the State Bar of California. I have carefully read and answered each question completely and truthfully in the foregoing application and any attachments hereto, and certify that the information therein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration is executed on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**TASK AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT  
ATTACHMENT A**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK THE BOXES THAT APPLY**

Within the five years immediately preceding submission of this application, I have:

- A. Participated as principal attorney in **at least 150 cases** in the field of immigration and nationality law in the following two categories, **with at least 5 cases in each category**:

*Record the number of cases in each category. A list of cases may be required by the CBLIS at a later date.*

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CASES
Application for immigrant and nonimmigrant status	
Hearings before immigration judges ( <i>at least two cases must be individual hearings on the merits of an application for relief or a non-frivolous motion to terminate</i> )	

**AND**

- B. Participated as principal attorney in six of the following 13 procedures and at least three cases in each of the six procedures:

*Record the number of cases for each procedure you have checked. A list of cases may be required by the CBLIS at a later date.*

PROCEDURE	NUMBER OF CASES
1. Naturalization or nationality cases	
2. Administrative appellate practice	
3. Judicial review of immigration proceedings in the federal courts (includes, but not limited to: Petition for Review, Habeas Corpus, Petition for Declaration of judgment, Writ of Mandamus)	
4. Labor certifications	
5. Contested removal, deportation, or exclusion hearings or rescission proceedings before immigration judges	
6. Motion, writs or pleas in criminal cases relating to collateral immigration consequences in federal or state courts	

PROCEDURE	NUMBER OF CASES
7. Bond or custody proceedings	
8. Refugee or asylum applications	
9. State Department or consular practice	
10. Immigrant visa petitions, applications, or immigrant waivers	
11. Immigration consequences of mergers, reorganizations, downsizing and other business or employment changes	
12. Non-immigrant visa petitions or applications, or non-immigrant waivers (includes, but not limited to ancillary applications such as labor condition applications)	
13. Other (please describe). SEE SECTION 2.2.13 OF THE STANDARDS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**EDUCATION REQUIREMENT  
ATTACHMENT B  
Total Educational Reporting**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to satisfy the education requirement for initial certification, you must have completed at least 45 hours of education in the substantive area as described below **within the three years immediately preceding submission of this application.** One-half, or 22.5 hours, may be satisfied with alternative educational activities, sometimes also called non-participatory activities, in which your participation is not verified by an independent party such as the educational provider.

**ON ATTACHMENT B-1**, list the educational activities pre-approved for legal specialist credit that you have attended or taught (excluding alternative educational activities, which will be listed on Attachment B-3). Refer to Attachment B-1 for the type of documentation required.

**ON ATTACHMENT B-2**, list the educational activities you have attended or taught (excluding alternative educational activities) that were not specifically approved for legal specialist credit, but were approved for MCLE credit and concern the direct legal subject matter in the specialty area. Refer to Attachment B-2 for a further explanation and the type of documentation required.

**ON ATTACHMENT B-3**, list any alternative educational activities that you have completed to satisfy the education requirement. Keep in mind that, with the exception of approved tapes, hours claimed for alternative educational activities are subject to approval and/or adjustment by the CBLA.

**REMEMBER:** Courses taken to fulfill the MCLE special topic requirements (legal ethics, substance abuse/competency, elimination of bias) CANNOT be used to satisfy the education requirement for certification unless they specifically discuss the substantive law of your specialty area.

Summarize your hours in the grid provided below.

**SUMMARY OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES)**  
(Section numbers refer to specific education requirements set forth in Standards)

AREA	HOURS ATTENDED OR TAUGHT* (total from B-1 + B-2)	HOURS OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (total from B-3)	TOTAL
<b>Section 3.1 Immigrant Visas (at least 15 hours)</b> Immediate relatives, relative preference categories, special immigrants, labor certification, grounds for exclusion and waivers, adjustment of status, legalization, registry and consular procedures			
<b>Section 3.2 Non-Immigrant Visas (at least 8 hours)</b> Change of non-immigrant status and all categories of non-immigrant visas			
<b>Section 3.3 Removal/Deportation/Exclusion (at least 12 hours)</b> Arrest and custody procedures, removal/deportation/exclusion grounds and waivers, defenses, immigration and administrative law court procedures and rules, employer sanctions, anti-discrimination procedures and defenses			
<b>Section 3.4 Administrative and Judicial Review (at least 6 hours)</b> Appeals to an appellate body of the Department of Justice, Department of State, or Department of Labor, motions to reopen, motions for reconsideration. Subject matter of judicial review may include appeals to Court of Appeals, habeas corpus proceedings, and other district court actions			
<b>Section 3.5 Citizenship and Naturalization (at least 4 hours)</b> Naturalization, derivation, and acquisition and loss of citizenship			
<b>TOTAL</b> (minimum of 45 hours)			

\*You may claim four hours for each hour that you taught a new or substantially updated course.

**EDUCATION REQUIREMENT  
ATTACHMENT B-1  
Education Approved for Legal Specialist Credit**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

On this attachment, list the educational activities you have attended or taught that were specifically pre-approved for legal specialist credit. Providers of approved legal specialist activities are subject to the same requirements as MCLE providers, so you should have been provided with a **certificate of attendance** indicating that the activity was approved for legal specialist credit and stating the number of hours of credit you received.

**COPY THIS ATTACHMENT IF ADDITIONAL LINES ARE NEEDED IN THE TABLE BELOW.**

**DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR EACH ACTIVITY:** Certificate of Attendance. The provider is required to give you a certificate of attendance. If you did not receive a certificate, contact the provider directly. If the course was a course taught by the State Bar, contact [sections@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:sections@calbar.ca.gov) if you need to request a duplicate certificate of attendance.

NAME OF PROGRAM SPONSOR OR APPROVED PROVIDER	NAME OF PROGRAM	HOURS ATTENDED	HOURS TAUGHT 1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME*	HOURS TAUGHT REPEAT*	DATE COMPLETED

\*Calculate credit for teaching as follows: Under Hours Taught First Time, record the actual number of hours of speaking time multiplied by four. On that same line, if there was also a portion of the class in which another speaker was teaching, claim actual hours for that time. If it was a repeat presentation that you have taught before with the same content, you may claim only actual speaking time. In that case, record your hours under Hours Attended.



**EDUCATION REQUIREMENT  
ATTACHMENT B-3  
Alternative Education**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

On this attachment, list the alternative methods you used to satisfy the legal specialist education requirement. Your participation in these activities is self-verified, so the provider does not provide a certificate of attendance. Remember that no more than one-half (1/2) of your requirement can be satisfied in this manner, except for course under options 4 and 5.

Note that webinars and tapes can sometimes be participatory activities that should be reported on B-1 or B-2 if they involve some sort of independent verification of attendance, such as a test during or after the class; in this case, the provider will provide a certificate of attendance.

If you are submitting activities that require CBLS approval, please provide sufficient information to allow evaluation of the self-study. Reading of treatises on your own is generally not approved.

*The CBLS may require additional information regarding alternative education activities.*

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION	# HOURS REQUESTED
1. <b>Self-verified</b> listening to and/or viewing of a complete audio or audio/visual reproduction of a program approved for legal specialist credit or MCLE credit if the subject is your substantive area of law. Such tapes must involve current law. <b><u>LIST THE ACTIVITIES AND HOURS REQUESTED FOR EACH ON A SEPARATE SHEET.</u></b>	
2. <b>Self-verified</b> participation in MCLE-approved audiovisual activities, including interactive video instruction or webinars, if the subject is your substantive area of law. <b><u>LIST THE ACTIVITIES AND HOURS REQUESTED FOR EACH ON A SEPARATE SHEET.</u></b>	
3. Authoring or co-authoring published articles, chapters or books in the substantive area of law. PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF THE MATERIALS FOR WHICH YOU ARE CLAIMING CREDIT. Credit generally will not be awarded for reading or editing. <b>The hours of credit to be allowed shall be determined by the CBLS after consideration of the amount and quality of the submitted materials. Estimate the time you spend preparing the materials, up to a maximum of half of your total educational requirement as noted above.</b>	
4. Completion of an advanced postgraduate course at an accredited law school that includes education in your specialty, such as an L.L.M. <b>The hours of credit to be allowed shall be determined by the Commission based upon the amount and quality of professional education involved. Note that this option can be used to fully satisfy your educational requirement and it is not subject to the cap noted above.</b> NAME OF LAW SCHOOL: COURSE COMPLETED: DATE COMPLETED:	
5. Teaching a course in the specialty area at an accredited law school. <b>The hours of credit to be allowed shall be determined by the CBLS based upon the amount and quality of professional education involved. If teaching a course as an adjunct or guest lecturer, claim four hours per speaking hour. If serving as the course professor, claim twelve hours per credit hour. Note that this option can be used to fully satisfy your educational requirement and it is not subject to the cap noted above.</b> NAME OF INSTITUTION: NAME OF COURSE: BRIEF DESCRIPTION: AUDIENCE (LAW STUDENTS, ATTORNEYS, ETC.): DATE COMPLETED:	

**INDEPENDENT INQUIRY AND REVIEW  
ATTACHMENT C**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the names of a minimum of three attorneys or judges who have had an opportunity to observe your work and who can attest to your proficiency in the practice of the specialty area under the laws applicable to the specialty in California.

To expedite your application, please include the following among your references if possible: opposing counsel, attorneys from other firms, and judges, commissioners or magistrates before whom you have appeared. References may include attorneys who are clients, partners, associates, employers or employees. Note, however, that references will be asked to disclose any such relationship.

References will be contacted by the State Bar of California via questionnaire. The information gathered shall be the property of the State Bar of California and shall not be revealed to you.

*Include each reference's California bar membership number to insure that reference forms are sent promptly and to the right individual. Bar membership numbers can be found online at [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov) under Attorney Search. If the attorney does not have a California Bar membership number or is a judge, please provide a full address.*

<b>NAME AND BAR NUMBER</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	



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### Credit Card Authorization Form

**Note: This form is only for credit card payments. No additional form is needed to accompany payment by check. Please make checks payable to "The State Bar of California."**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Description	Fee
<i>Legal Specialization Certification Application Fee</i>	<i>\$300</i>

I authorize the State Bar of California to charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(This form may not be used to pay dues or other attorney fees; it only may be used to pay fees related to Legal Specialization. Please print legibly.)

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type:            Visa                            MasterCard

Name on Card (print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SUBMISSION INFORMATION

**MAIL FORM TO:**

The State Bar of California  
Department of Legal Specialization  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**FAX FORM TO:**

OR

(415) 538-2180