



LEGAL SPECIALIZATION APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION

When is my application due?

The application is due on or before the end of your current certification term. Applications may be submitted in advance but no earlier than six months prior to the end of your term. You can find your current certification term by going to [Specialization Certifications](#) after successfully logging into the [Admissions Applicant Portal](#).

Have I included the correct fee?

A \$350* processing fee, payable either via check or credit card to the State Bar of California, is due with the application.

What happens if I don't fill out my application correctly?

If your application is incomplete or if any information provided is insufficient, you will receive notice to correct the deficiency. If you fail to correct the deficiency within 60 days from the date of the notice, the application shall be deemed withdrawn without a refund of the fee. We may request additional or supplemental nonconfidential information in order to show compliance with recertification requirements.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

APPLICATION FORM

Personal Information

Enter your official State Bar name and address of record. This is the information that appears in State Bar Licensee Records. Use the State Bar's [Attorney Search](#) to verify the information is current. If the information is not current, you must update your information pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6002.1, through [My State Bar Profile](#).

Please be aware that all correspondence will be sent to you at your official address of record registered in the Applicant Portal.

Discipline

Section 3.113 of the Rules provides that the California Board of Legal Specialization may take the following into account in considering your application:

Final disciplinary actions imposed for professional misconduct by any court or body before whom you appear. Include: (1) title of disciplinary action; (2) action number; (3) nature of charge; (4) nature of sanction; (5) date sanction was imposed; and (6) date sanction was terminated. For nonattorney professional discipline (e.g., accountancy), provide information similar to above.

Felony convictions. Provide the case number, title, date of conviction, and where it was filed.

Resignation from any State Bar, court, or body before whom you appear. Provide the name of the entity, the effective resignation date, and the reason.

Judgments of professional negligence. Include only if there were three or more judgments against you during the certification term. Provide the case number, title, date judgment was rendered, and where it was filed.

Sanctions. Include only sanctions, other than discovery sanctions, of \$1,000 or more. Provide a copy of the order.

Findings of contempt. Provide a copy of the findings.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Task and Experience Requirement

Refer to the Standards for your specialty area for the specific requirements.

B. Education Requirement

Note that you do not need to submit any education with this application. Your Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE) is reported along with your MCLE Compliance Group, rather than as a part of this packet. For additional information regarding LSCLE reporting, please review the [MCLE Requirements for Certified Specialists](#).

C. References

When listing a reference, please include the attorney's bar number. Use the [Attorney Search](#) to find an attorney(s) or judge's bar number.

CHECKLIST

Have you:

- Read the declaration?
- Provided all information requested on the application and attachments?
- Signed and dated the application?
- Attached additional sheets if you needed more space?
- Put your name on the top of all attachments?
- Made copies for your records?
- Enclosed a check/payment information for the appropriate recertification fee*?

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Mail to:

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

Fax to:

415-538-2180

RESOURCES

- Please refer to the Standards for your specialty area as you complete the application and attachments.
- The Rules, Standards, and list of approved legal specialization education providers are available [online](#) at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/>.
- All California licensees already have an account on the Applicant Portal, which is separate from your login credentials for My State Bar Profile. You should not create or register a new applicant portal account. Please see our [Applicant Portal FAQs](#) or let us know by emailing us at legalspec@calbar.ca.gov if you have any questions or need assistance logging in.

**You may submit payment of the \$350 processing fee via check or credit card.*

**There will be a \$20 fee for a returned check.*

For credit card payments, a processing fee of 2.5 percent will be added to all charges. There is no processing fee associated with payments by check.



**APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION
Admiralty & Maritime Law Certified Specialist**

Filing Fee - \$350*

**You may submit payment via check or credit card.*

For credit card payments, a processing fee of 2.5 percent will be added to all charges. There is no processing fee associated with payments by check.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Bar Number: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

It is your responsibility to inform the Legal Specialization Unit in the Office of Admissions of any address changes. All correspondence will be sent to the current information on file in the Admissions Applicant Portal. **We will update your email to the email provided below.** However, you may also change your address, email and/or telephone number on your own by logging into the [Admissions Applicant Portal](#) and updating your profile.

NOTE: The Applicant Portal is separate from your My State Bar Profile, and requires different login credentials. You should not create or register a new account. Please email Legal Specialization at legalspec@calbar.ca.gov for assistance logging into your account.

Email Address: _____

RECERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY

At the time of applying for recertifying, I am an active licensee of the State Bar of California.

Yes No **IF NO, STOP HERE. YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.**

PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

I have been engaged in the practice of admiralty & maritime law for at least 25 percent of the time spent in my occupational endeavors during the previous five years.

Yes No **IF NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN ON A SEPARATE SHEET AND ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION**

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The following is a complete statement of my employment since my most recent application. List most recent employment first. **ATTACH SEPARATE SHEETS IF NECESSARY.**

Check here if additional sheets are attached.

Dates of Employment	Employer	Address	Nature of Employment (summarize nature of work performed)

DISCIPLINE

Within the five years immediately preceding submission of this application:

Were you 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, or by any bankruptcy court, or do you have any discipline pending? Yes No

Do you have any discipline charges pending as described above? Yes No

Did you have any felony convictions? Yes No

Did you resign from any bar, court or body before whom you appear? Yes No

Were there three or more judgments of professional negligence against you? (If yes, please attach the relevant documents.) Yes No

Were any sanctions, other than discovery sanctions, entered against you by any court or body before whom you appear? Yes No

Were 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 State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) and/or its agents or advisors any nonprivileged 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 clergy person 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 CBLS, as described in the Rules of the State Bar, Appendix A: Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.

I agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the CBLs as amended from time to time and to furnish to the CBLs such information as it may require, to evaluate my application.

I am the applicant herein for certification as a 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: _____

**ADMIRALTY & MARITIME LAW RECERTIFICATION
Attachment A – Task and Experience Requirement**

Applicant Name: _____ Bar Number: _____

The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization may require additional evidence of completion of the tasks and experience as indicated in this Attachment A.

Within the five years immediately preceding submission of this application, please demonstrate that you have been substantially involved in the practice of admiralty and maritime law as demonstrated by performance of the tasks listed below.

You must submit a total of at least 300 points. Points may be accumulated from any of the tasks, subject to the maximums specified per task.

EACH TASK MAY BE COUNTED IN ONLY ONE CATEGORY

NOTE: With respect to each task, the applicant must have performed the task personally or had direct and primary responsibility for its performance under his or her close and ongoing supervision. For purposes of this showing, points may be accumulated from any of the tasks subject to the maximums specified per task. However, each task may be counted only one. The term “dispositive hearing” as used hereinafter means determinative of one or more of the issues identified in one or more task requirements, with a minimum of 100 points in Section 2.1.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF MATTERS	NUMBER OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.1	Serve as principal attorney in a potentially dispositive hearing, arbitration or trial that determines:		
2.1.1	Admiralty jurisdiction, including but not limited to: (1) the basis of admiralty jurisdiction; (2) the consequences of admiralty jurisdiction; (3) the doctrine of exclusive admiralty jurisdiction; (4) the operation of the savings to suitors clause; (5) an action involving the operation of the Admiralty Extension Act; and/or (6) the basis for supplemental jurisdiction over nonmaritime claims. 10 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 50 points		
2.1.2	Proper venue, including but not limited to: (1) proper venue in an <i>in rem</i> or <i>quasi in rem</i> action; (2) venue pursuant to 28 USC Section 1391; (3) proper venue in action for maritime personal injury, including but not limited to an action against a Jones Act employer, a shipowner or passenger carrier; (4) the factors justifying the transfer of venue pursuant to 28 USC Section 1404; (5) removal of a maritime cause of action from state to federal court; and/or (6) proper venue under the Suits in Admiralty Act, the Public Vessels Act or a Limitation Action. 10 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 50 points		

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF MATTERS	NUMBER OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.1.3	Choice of law, including but not limited to: (1) the operation of a choice of law clause in a maritime contract governing actions in either contract or tort or both; (2) application of the <i>Lauritzen/Rhoades</i> factors; (3) the effect of a bankruptcy court automatic stay upon an <i>in rem</i> proceeding; (4) the creation of a maritime lien upon a vessel operated by an owner undergoing Ch.11 bankruptcy reorganization; and/or (5) role of state law in a maritime law action. 10 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 50 points		
2.1.4	Choice of forum or <i>forum nonconveniens</i> issues in an interstate or international contract. 10 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.1.5	Legal liability for the loss of or damage to cargo transported under an ocean bill of lading. 25 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 75 points		
2.1.6	Liability and or damages in a maritime personal injury or wrongful death claim. 40 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 120 points		
2.1.7	Liability and other maritime tort claims, including collision, allision or pollution claims, and/or marine products liability. 40 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 120 points		
2.1.8	An arrest of a vessel to the conclusion of the action. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 90 points		
2.1.9	A Motion for Interlocutory Sale of a vessel. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 20 points		
2.1.10	The ranking or validity of two or more competing maritime liens. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 90 points		
2.1.11	A claim for a maritime lien under the California Harbors and Navigation Code's "Boaters Lien Law" through to the conclusion of the action. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 90 points		
2.1.12	The rights of either a claimant or employer in an LHWCA proceeding before an Administrative Law Judge through to a final award. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points: 150 points		
2.1.13	A wrongful arrest action through to the conclusion of the action. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 90 points		
2.2	Preparing and drafting a brief, contract, pleading or other legal document or report as follows:		

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF MATTERS	NUMBER OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.2.1	Drafting a motion where any one of the following is determined: (a) the right of a ship owner to limit its liability; (b) the ability of party to qualify as a “ship owner” entitled to limit its liability; (c) the impact of the Flotilla Rule upon the limitation fund or limitation amount; (d) the valuation of the fund or limitation amount. 15 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 45 points		
2.2.2	Authoring the brief(s) filed in a dispositive hearing or trial in state or federal district court where one or more issues of substantive admiralty and maritime law is decided. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 90 points		
2.2.3	Providing substantive written legal advice or analysis to a client, claimant, or other interested party regarding the existence, validity or ranking of maritime liens. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 45 points		
2.2.4	Providing substantive written legal advice or analysis to a client, claimant or other interested party evaluating the merits or value of a maritime personal injury or wrongful death claim or a defense thereto. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.2.5	Acting as the attorney primarily responsible for preparing and filing a complaint asserting a claim for maritime personal injury. 30 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.2.6	Preparing a letter of undertaking or other form of security to avert an arrest or effectuate the release of a vessel under arrest. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 20 points		
2.2.7	Preparing and filing: (a) A petition for Limitation of Liability under the Limitation of Ship Owners’ Liability Act. 15 points per matter. (b) An Answer and Claim in a limitation of liability action. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 35 points		
2.2.8	Preparing a maritime contract, including but not limited to: (a) a ticket contract or other contract for passage; (b) a bill of lading or other contract of carriage; (c) a towage contract; (d) a salvage contract; (e) a contract of marine insurance; (f) a first preferred ship’s mortgage; (g) a wharfage contract; (h) a ship repair or boat yard work order contract; or (i) maritime terminal facilities, stevedoring, or terminal service agreements. 15 points per contract. Maximum number of points: 90 points		
2.2.9	Providing substantive written legal advice or analysis to a client, claimant, or other interested party regarding the existence, scope, limitations and/or defenses to coverage under a marine insurance policy. 10 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 50 points		

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF MATTERS	NUMBER OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.2.10	Providing substantive written legal advice or analysis to a client, claimant, or other interested party regarding the existence, value, merits and/or defenses to a salvage claim. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.2.11	Providing substantive written legal advice or analysis to a client, claimant, or other interested party in connection with a claim for the collection of freight and/or the enforcement of a lien for unpaid freight. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.2.12	Providing substantive written legal advice or analysis to a client, claimant, or other interested party regarding the merits and/or defenses to a claim for unpaid wages, unearned wages, penalty wages, or maintenance and cure. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.3	Acting as principal attorney in any of the following vessel transactions listed in 2.3.1 through 2.3.4:		
2.3.1	Representing a shipowner or charterer in negotiation and drafting a charter party through its execution. 15 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 45 points		
2.3.2	Hiring of crew, provisioning the vessel, or tendering the vessel pursuant to a charter party. 5 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 25 points		
2.3.3	Representing an owner in obtaining the documentation of a U.S. flagged vessel or continuing its documentation following rebuild. 20 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 60 points		
2.3.4	Representing a seller or purchaser in a vessel construction and/or sale transaction through to the conclusion of the construction and sale and the finalization of the vessel sale contract. 15 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 30 points		
2.4	Other eligible tasks and experience:		
2.4.1	Testifying as an expert witness in an action in a foreign forum where the topic on which you have been retained to testify and/or consult is a matter of substantive U.S. admiralty or maritime law, or a federal or state forum where the topic on which you have been retained to testify and/or consult is the standard of care/custom of practice in handling an admiralty and maritime law matter. 20 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 80 points		

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF MATTERS	NUMBER OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.4.2	Acting as a judge, arbitrator, special master or mediator in any litigation or formal mediation where matters of admiralty or maritime law are among the primary contested issues. 30 points per separate judicial or arbitration proceeding which proceeded to a final decision. 15 points per mediation. Maximum number of points in this category: 90 points		
2.4.3	Acting as the principal attorney in preparing a mediation brief and representing a client at mediation. 10 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 50 points		
2.4.4	In a matter before an administrative agency/entity in connection with: (a) the operation of vessels or watercraft; (b) licensing of maritime personnel; (c) issuance of ocean bills of lading or publication of tariffs; (d) filing a report of maritime casualty or in connection with a U.S. Coast Guard maritime casualty investigation; (e) a U.S. Coast Guard administrative proceeding; (f) the operation of a pier or marine terminal; (g) licensing of nonvessel operating common carrier or freight forwarder. 20 points per matter. Maximum number of points in this category: 120 points		
2.4.5	Industry experience, such as having been licensed as a mariner or attendance at a maritime academy, will be considered on a case by case basis. Maximum number of points in this category: 50 points		
TOTAL (minimum 300 points)			

OTHER EXPERIENCE

If you are unable to meet any part of the requirement above, you must submit other experience demonstrating substantial compliance with the requirements. Please describe the nature of your practice. Include detailed information regarding your experience as it relates to the foregoing requirements.

- I am submitting alternative or additional forms of admiralty & maritime practice for consideration in fulfilling the requirements of substantial involvement. **ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET**

LEGAL SPECIALIST CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR RECERTIFICATION
Attachment B – Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE) Compliance Reporting Schedule

Applicant Name: _____ Bar Number: _____

LSCLE Compliance Reporting Schedule

Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education is no longer reported in the recertification application. Specialists must report their LSCLE Compliance on the same three-year schedule as their general MCLE Compliance.

For additional information regarding LSCLE reporting, please review the [MCLE Requirements for Certified Specialists](#) page of the State Bar website.

REFERENCE REQUIREMENT FOR RECERTIFICATION
Attachment C – Independent Inquiry and Review

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 electronic 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 number to ensure that reference forms are sent promptly and to the right individual. Bar numbers can be found online at www.calbar.ca.gov under Attorney Search. If the reference does not have a California Bar number, is a judge, or licensed in another state, please provide a full address.

NAME AND BAR NUMBER	ADDRESS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

**LEGAL SPECIALIZATION APPLICATION
Payment Authorization Form**

State Bar Number: _____

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

DESCRIPTION	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Specialization Post-Examination Application for Initial Certification Fee	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Specialization Application for Recertification Fee	\$350
TOTAL* _____	

**For credit card payments, a processing fee of 2.5 percent will be added to all charges. There is no processing fee associated with payments by check*

**There will be a \$20 fee for a returned check.*

This form may not be used to pay dues or other licensee fees; it may only be used to pay fees associated to the Legal Specialization program. **Please print legibly.**

Personal/Cashier's Check or Money Order
*(Make checks payable to **The State Bar of California**)*

Credit Card

Credit Card Number: _____

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

Credit Card Type: American Express Discover MasterCard Visa

Name on Card: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____ Date: _____

By my signature on this document, I/we authorize the State Bar of California to charge my/our credit card account for the amount listed in the 'Total' box above.