

Members of the LSBA

RE: New Legal Specialty Areas

Dear Members:

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization, which was created by the Louisiana Supreme Court, is charged with the duty of overseeing legal specialty areas which have been created. Until earlier this year, the creation of new legal specialty areas was subject to a moratorium. The House of Delegates has lifted the moratorium as to the creation of new legal specialty areas in the practice of law in the State of Louisiana.

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization regularly receives requests concerning the creation of new legal specialty areas. While such legal specialty areas must be approved by the House of Delegates, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization is charged with recommending new specialty areas.

In an effort to provide information to attorneys who desire to create new legal specialty areas, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization has adopted a written policy concerning how submissions must be made to the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization for consideration of new legal specialty areas. A copy of the new policy follows this letter. Should you need additional information concerning this, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Zulli, Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization, at the following numbers: 619-0128 or 1-800-421-5722, Ext. 128.

Sincerely yours,  
Carey J. Messina, Chairman  
Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization

## NEW LEGAL SPECIALTY AREAS

Interested parties may petition the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization for recommendation of a new legal specialty area to the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association by following the procedures listed below.

- A. Attorneys seeking recognition of a new specialty area by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization ("LBLS") shall submit a written application to the LBLS which shall include each of the following:
1. Signatures of twenty (20) attorneys recommending the proposed specialty area.
  2. A statement as to whether the Louisiana Bar Association has recognized a section for the proposed specialty area and the number of members of that section for the previous year and for the past five (5) years, if available.
  3.
    - a. An estimate and the basis for such estimate as to the number of attorneys statewide who work in the proposed specialty area.
    - b. Signatures of those who have expressed an interest in seeking certification in the proposed specialty area.
  4. A definition of the proposed specialty area.
  5. A showing that the contemplated definition of the proposed specialty area is not in substantial conflict, nor substantially overlaps, with the definition of a current specialty area, or, if substantial conflict or overlap exists, a statement explaining why the proposed specialty area should be recognized in spite of the conflict or overlap.
  6. A demonstration as to how recognition of the proposed specialty area will benefit members of the public.
  7. A listing of the continuing legal education courses provided in Louisiana in the proposed specialty area within the past two (2) years.
  8. A draft of standards for certification in the proposed specialty area.
  9. A draft of a subject matter outline covering the knowledge and skills that candidates would be expected to show in the proposed specialty area.
  10. Signatures of at least twenty (20) attorneys who would be willing to serve as an initial advisory commission to the LBLS in the proposed

specialty area.

- B. Upon receipt of a written application which complies with the requirements of Section A above, the LBLS shall circulate copies of it to the members of all existing attorney advisory commissions for written comment. Incomplete applications will not be considered by the LBLS.
- C. After receipt and consideration of written comments from existing advisory commission members and after conducting its own review of the advisability of recognition of the proposed specialty area, the LBLS may,
  - 1. Recommend to the House of Delegates recognition of standards for certification in the proposed specialty area, or
  - 2. Recommend to the House of Delegates that the proposed specialty not be recognized, or
  - 3. Request additional information or clarification from the attorneys who applied for recognition of the proposed specialty area. In this instance the LBLS may also seek additional information on its own to assist it in making its final recommendation to the House of Delegates.

**(NAME) LAW SPECIALIZATION**

Proposed (Name) Law Specialization Survey Form  
to be attached to an application submitted to the  
Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS)

- I, the undersigned, support and recommend that (Name) Law become a specialty area recognized by the LBLS.
- I would be interested in seeking certification in the proposed specialty area of (Name) Law
- I would be personally willing to serve as a member of the initial Advisory Commission to the LBLS in the area of (Name) Law.

Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Law Firm Name

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail:

Are you currently certified in any specialty area by the LBLS?  Yes  No

If yes, please list the specialty area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What percentage of your current practice is devoted to (Name) Law? \_\_\_\_\_%

Are you currently a member of the (Name) Law Section?  Yes  No

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