



The State Bar of California

Application for 2018-2019 Appointments

Each year the State Bar of California offers opportunities to apply for appointment to serve on the Board of Trustees of the State Bar, State Bar advisory committees, and external entities.

The Board of Trustees is the policy-making and oversight body for the State Bar of California. State Bar advisory committees provide support and advise the Board of Trustees in a number of areas to ensure the State Bar is focused on its public protection mission. The Board of Trustees also makes appointments to external entities that work in furtherance of the State Bar of California's mission.

Access and inclusion are key parts of the State Bar's mission. People from a range of backgrounds who represent the diversity of California are encouraged to apply for appointment. A description of these opportunities is provided below. The State Bar complies with all applicable anti-discrimination laws in its appointment process.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Supreme Court of California appoints 5 lawyer members to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California. The Trustee Nominating Committee, created by the Supreme Court pursuant to Rule 9.90 of the California Rules of Court, is responsible for soliciting, receiving, screening and evaluating all applications for appointment or reappointment to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California and for making recommendations to the Supreme Court.

The role of a Trustee includes: (1) establishing and monitoring policies implementing the State Bar's public protection mission and strategic plan; (2) establishing policies, programs and services that advance the State Bar's public protection mission and strategic plan; and (3) adopting, evaluating and modifying the State Bar's long-range plan to address both present and future challenges and opportunities for the State Bar.

To be eligible to serve on the Board of Trustees, the applicant must be an active licensee, in good standing, of the State Bar of California. In making appointments to the Board of Trustees, the Supreme Court is required by Business and Professions Code section 6013.1(d) to consider appointing lawyers who represent the following categories: legal services; small firm or solo practitioners; historically underrepresented groups; and legal academics. The Supreme Court must also consider geographic distribution, years of practice, and participation in voluntary local or state bar activities. The terms are four years.

Board of Trustees application for appointment deadline: March 16, 2018

STATE BAR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

[Committee of Bar Examiners](#)

This committee exercises oversight over the California Bar Examination, moral character determination process, and the First-Year Law Students' Examination. The committee makes recommendations for rules and guidelines governing admissions functions; recommends qualified applicants to the California Supreme Court for admission to practice law in California; accredits law schools; registers unaccredited law schools; and studies and reports on proposed changes in the law and other matters concerning requirements for admission to practice law in California.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 3

Time Commitment: 7 meetings per year, plus additional subcommittee meetings or other assignments

[Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration](#)

This committee's primary function is to oversee the mandatory attorney-client fee arbitration program established by Business & Professions Code sections 6200-6206. The committee's primary responsibilities include making recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding needed amendments to fee arbitration statutes, state and local bar fee arbitration rules, and monitoring developments in substantive and procedural law relating to mandatory fee arbitration.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 5

Time Commitment: 6-8 meetings per year, plus special projects

[Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct](#)

The committee addresses matters involving professional ethics and helps educate and provide guidance to attorneys, judges, and the public about the ethical duties of an attorney. The committee's work consists of drafting advisory opinions on issues of professional ethics, and ; and studying and recommending changes to the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 4 (lawyer and non-lawyer public member positions)

Time Commitment: 8 meetings per year

[California Commission on Access to Justice](#)

The commission works to develop and support projects to improve access to civil justice for Californians living on low and moderate incomes. The commission works closely with the Judicial Council to improve access to the courts.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 3

Time Commitment: 5-6 meetings per year

[Client Security Fund Commission](#)

The Client Security Fund (CSF) reimburses clients who have lost money or property due to theft or an equivalent dishonest act committed by a California lawyer acting in a professional capacity. The commission determines whether applications filed with CSF qualify for reimbursement under the Fund's rules, and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on revisions to the Fund's rules..

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 3

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Council on Access and Fairness

This 25-member council advises the Board of Trustees on advancing the State Bar's diversity strategies and goals along the diversity pipeline to enhance opportunities and advancement in the legal profession for diverse populations. The council serves as the State Bar diversity "think tank" and consists of judges, lawyers and public members from diverse practice settings and constituencies.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 6

Time Commitment: 4 in-person meetings per year, plus other calls as needed

Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee

This committee oversees the operation of the Lawyer Assistance Program as necessary to establish policies, practices and procedures to support the program goal of offering education and rehabilitative programs to attorneys, former attorneys, Bar applicants, and law students suffering from substance abuse and mental health disorders.

Expected 2018-2019 vacancies: 2

Time Commitment: 4 meetings per year plus 1-2 hours between meetings in conference calls

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

This commission administers grant programs that fund nonprofit civil legal aid organizations, including Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grants and the Equal Access Fund. The commission seeks lawyers and non-lawyer public members who possess a commitment to the delivery of legal services and needs of low-income communities.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 5

Time Commitment: 4-6 meetings per year, plus additional standing committee meetings

Legal Specialization: California Board of Legal Specialization and its Advisory Commissions

This board administers the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists, with the assistance of 11 specialty Advisory Commissions. The CBLS recommends program rules and provides policies and guidelines for certification of specialists; develops testing and legal education criteria for specialists; and advises the Board of Trustees on establishment of specialty fields and appointment of advisory commissions. The Advisory Commissions assist the CBLS with the drafting and grading of the legal specialist examinations. Terms are four years.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 7

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

California Board of Legal Specialization Advisory Commissions (lawyer positions unless noted)

Admiralty & Maritime Law

Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 2

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Appellate Law Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 3

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Bankruptcy Law Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 3

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Criminal Law Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 2

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law

Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 2

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Family Law Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 2

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Franchise & Distribution Law

Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 4

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Immigration & Nationality Law Advisory

Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 5

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Legal Malpractice Law Advisory

Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 2

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Taxation Law Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 4 (lawyer and non-lawyer public member positions)

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Workers' Compensation Law

Advisory Commission

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 3

Time Commitment: 6 meetings per year

Judicial Nominees Evaluation - Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE Commission) and Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (RJNE).

Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation

The JNE Commission, established pursuant to Government Code section 12011.5, evaluates all candidates who are under consideration for a judicial appointment by the governor. The 38-member commission is composed of lawyers in active practice, one or more retired judges, and non-lawyer public members. Commissioners serve terms of approximately one year and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The State Bar seeks applications from California lawyers, former judges and members of the public whose background, skills and experience would enable them to assess candidates for judicial appointment in a thorough, objective and professional manner and to provide timely and well-written reports, while maintaining a code of strict confidentiality. Lawyer applicants must be in active practice, for preferably ten or more years. Consideration will be given to those practitioners who have substantial litigation, trial, transactional and/or appellate experience. Former judges with appellate backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Public member applicants must never have been admitted to the practice of law. Because the overwhelming majority of the work is conducted electronically and online, members must have access to a computer and an email address that can be published at the State Bar's website. Commission members are subject to a criminal history clearance by the California Department of Justice and FBI. As a condition of appointment, each member agrees that during their service, they will abstain from endorsing or participating in any judicial candidate's campaign for office, and will refrain from appearing before or voting on any other committee or commission involved in the judicial selection process. Commission members may not apply for or accept a State of California judicial appointment nor permit his or her name to be submitted for evaluation as a candidate for such an appointment until a majority of the commission consists of members with whom the commission member did not serve (i.e., two or three years after completing service on the commission).

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 13

*Time Commitment: 6 meetings (2 days long) per year alternating between San Francisco and Los Angeles State Bar offices, plus a **mandatory two-day Orientation meeting to be held February 8-9, 2019** and 40 hours of investigation/evaluation work per month*

RJNE

RJNE, established pursuant to Article 6, Rule 7.66 of the Rules and Procedures of the JNE Commission, is a five-member committee that is charged with reviewing requests from those candidates who are seeking reconsideration of the JNE Commission's "not qualified" rating. RJNE evaluates information pertaining to the investigation of the candidate and focuses on possible violations of rules or procedure. RJNE is composed of 2 members of the Board of Trustees (one lawyer and one non-lawyer public member), 1 past member of the JNE Commission, and 2 at-large members. The State Bar seeks applicants who previously served at least three years on the JNE Commission, with their last year of service ending between 2012 and 2015.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 1-2 at large

Time Commitment: 4-5 meetings per year by conference call, plus 2-4 hours in preparation for each meeting and report writing

STATE BAR BOARD OF TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ENTITIES

[American Bar Association \(ABA\) House of Delegates](#)

The ABA House of Delegates is the policy-making body of the ABA. Pursuant to the ABA Constitution, the State Bar of California appoints a total of 11 delegates, one of whom serves as the young lawyer delegate, to the House of Delegates. The terms of these appointments are two years.

The State Bar's delegates are part of the California delegation, which also consists of delegates appointed by ten local bar associations, ABA sections and divisions, and former officers and ABA board members. The elected State Delegate heads the California delegation. Delegates must be ABA members in good standing throughout their tenure as delegate and are expected to attend the Midyear and Annual ABA meetings, and to participate in conference calls. Delegates' attendance at the ABA House meetings is verified and comments regarding participation are solicited from the California State delegate.

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 6

Time Commitment: 2 meetings per year, plus conference calls

[Judicial Council](#)

The Judicial Council is the constitutionally created policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. The Judicial Council consists of the Chief Justice, who serves as the council's chair; 14 judges appointed by the Chief Justice; four lawyer members appointed by the State Bar; one member from each house of the California Legislature; and the Administrative Director, who serves as secretary. Members receive no compensation for services but are reimbursed by the council for approved travel expenses. [Details about service on the council and the council's governance policies are available at its website.](#)

Expected 2018-19 vacancies: 1

Time Commitment: 7 meetings (2 days long) per year, plus 10-20 internal committee meetings per year, 3-4 days per month on assignments, a mandatory orientation at the August 2018 meeting (300 hours per year)

ADVISORY COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Application and Deadlines: All applicants are to file the State Bar Application for 2018 -2019 Appointments. [The application form and related information is available on the State Bar website.](#)

Unless otherwise published at the State Bar website or noted on the filing instruction page, the deadline for most committees is March 31, 2018. Please note that the State Bar cannot guarantee the confidentiality of applications.

The deadline for the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation and Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation is **May 4, 2018.**

Eligibility / Appointment Policies: Applicants may apply to a maximum of two committees but can be appointed to only one. Committee members may not serve on more than one committee at any one time unless an exception is authorized by the Board. In no case will the Board appoint a person who is subject to disciplinary probation. Factors that militate against appointment, but are weighed among other factors, include: 1) if a lawyer appointment, whether there is a record of public

discipline; 2) whether any other member of applicant's firm is on the committee; and 3) whether the applicant previously served on the committee. Due consideration will be given in the appointment process to the budget impact of any additional costs that may be incurred by the State Bar due to the service of out-of-state members. Specific requirements for the individual committees are noted on the following pages.

Appointment Term: Members generally serve three-year terms. Some appointments have two-year and four-year terms. On occasion, the Board may appoint a member to an unexpired vacancy (i.e., the appointee serves only the remaining portion of the term of the member who resigned). With few exceptions, the committee year runs from September to September.

Time Commitment and Committee Service: Committees differ in the number of meetings scheduled in a year, but a typical meeting requires two to four hours of preparation and at least four to six hours of attendance. The meeting locations alternate between San Francisco and Los Angeles State Bar offices, and some meetings may be conducted by conference call. An additional time commitment may be required for special tasks and projects. Committee members take an oath of office and receive no compensation for services. Committee members may be reimbursed for approved travel expenses in accordance with the State Bar's policies.

Application Review and Board Appointments: The committees review the applications and forward their recommendations for appointment to the Board's appointments committee. In 2018, the Board Executive Committee will consider the appointments and forward its recommendations to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The ultimate authority to make appointments rests with the Board of Trustees. Applications of those not selected are kept on file for approximately one year for consideration for vacancies that may arise during the 2018-19 committee year.

Questions: Please contact appointments@calbar.ca.gov.