

## NEW ATTORNEY SPECIALTY AREAS

Upon petition by interested parties, the Texas Board of Legal Specialization may recommend the adoption of a new specialty area to the Supreme Court of Texas by following the procedures listed below.

- A. Attorneys seeking recognition of a new specialty area by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization shall submit a written application to the TBLS which shall include each of the following:
  1. Signatures of one hundred attorneys recommending the proposed specialty area.
  2. A statement as to whether the State Bar of Texas has recognized a section for the proposed specialty area and the number of members of that section for the past five years.
  3.
    - a. An 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 Texas in the proposed specialty area within the past two 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 attorneys who would be willing to serve as an initial advisory commission to the TBLS in the proposed specialty area.
- B. Upon receipt of a written application which complies with the requirements of Section A above, TBLS shall determine the advisability of whether the proposed specialty area should be submitted for public comment. In the event that TBLS determines that the proposed specialty area should be submitted for public comment, TBLS will circulate copies of it to the TBLS membership and related State Bar of Texas Sections and Committees for public comment. Incomplete applications will not be considered by the TBLS.
- C. After receipt and consideration of public comments and after conducting its own review of the advisability of recognition of the proposed specialty area, the TBLS may:
  1. Recommend to the Supreme Court of Texas recognition of standards for certification in the proposed specialty area, or
  2. Recommend to the Supreme Court of Texas 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 TBLS may also seek additional information on its own to assist it in making its final recommendation to the Supreme Court of Texas.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION

## Proposed Local Government Law Specialization Survey Form to be attached to an application submitted to the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS)

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

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

Firm / Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Are you currently certified in any specialty area by the TBLS?  Yes  No If yes, please list the specialty area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What percentage of your current practice is devoted to Local Government Law? \_\_\_\_\_%

Are you currently a member of the Government Law Section?  Yes  No

Signature: _____ Date _____
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