

Legal Specialization Screening Committee Minutes

April 24, 2018 Meeting
Judicial Branch, Legal Services Unit
100 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Conference Room, 3rd Floor
2:00pm

VIA CONFERENCE PHONE CALL

Members Participating: Attorney Jeffrey Low (Vice Chair), Attorney Rosemarie Paine, Attorney Robert Dwyer

Not participating: Attorney Salvatore DePiano (Chair), Attorney Patrick Kennedy

LSSC Staff participating: Attorney Denise Poncini, Attorney Katharine Casaubon

1. The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on June 3, 2016. Attorney Dwyer and Paine voted to approve the minutes; Attorney Low abstained.
2. The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on August 15, 2016. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes.
3. The Committee considered the National Association of Counsel for Children's renewal application to certify lawyers as specialists in Child Welfare law. After brief discussion, the Committee unanimously approved that the following resolution be forwarded to the Rules Committee:

The Legal Specialization Screening Committee recommends that the National Association of Counsel for Children be approved, retroactive to January 15, 2018, for recertification as a certifier in the specialty area of Child Welfare law pursuant to its application dated March 19, 2018, because in the opinion of the Committee, it meets all of the criteria in the rules and as developed by the Committee to evaluate whether entities should be approved as certifiers, subject to the condition that, if approved, the applicant shall be required to notify promptly the Legal Specialization Screening Committee of any material changes in its methodology for certifying lawyers as specialists during the term of its approval.

4. The Committee considered:

- a. Proposed revisions to the application form to add reference to the use of the application for a renewal application also, and to include check boxes for whether the application is a new or renewal application.
- b. Proposed revision to the application form to bold the text at the end of instruction #5, starting with the word "and" to emphasize the need to file an electronic version of an application in addition to a hard copy.

After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to approve both of the proposed revisions to the application form, JD-ES-63, Application for Authority to Certify Lawyers as Specialists.

5. The Committee considered a proposed revision to Rule 7.4C in the Rules of Professional Conduct to remove "an original and six copies of" from the description of how applicants must file their applications, which was approved by the LSSC in December, 2014, but was inadvertently omitted from the changes to the Practice Book adopted by the judges in 2015.

After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the revision again be considered by the Rules Committee.

6. The Committee considered the Connecticut Bar Association's request to determine whether an on-line version of an exam would be acceptable. This matter would also entail a review of the application and a consideration of what is intended by the requirement of a "written examination" in the LSSC Regulations.

The Committee discussed this and asked Legal Services staff to research rules from other jurisdictions on the specifics of exam administration for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting.

In connection with the consideration of this item, the Committee also unanimously voted to remove questions 17 and 18 from the application form, JD-ES-63, Application for Authority to Certify Lawyers as Specialists.

7. The meeting adjourned at 2:34.

Respectfully Submitted,



Denise Poncini
Counsel, Legal Services