



# Certification Matters

## TBLS Announces New Specialty Areas

Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Confirmed for Paralegals —  
Child Welfare Law Available in 2018 for Attorneys

*By TBLS Staff*

Last December, TBLS approved Oil, Gas & Mineral Law as the newest Specialty Area for Paralegal Board Certification. It's comprised of laws applicable to and interest in oil, gas and other minerals, and to the acquisition, ownership, leasing, development transfer, disposition and financing of these substances.

Paralegal duties and responsibilities include assisting attorneys in the following areas and having knowledge regarding:

1. Land titles and surface use;
2. Conveyances, contracts and other documents typically used in oil, gas and other mineral transactions;
3. Statutes and regulations affecting oil, gas and minerals;
4. Litigation involving oil, gas and mineral rights; and
5. The taxation of oil, gas and other minerals and of transactions concerning them.

General Standards require applicants have a combination of a minimum of 5 years of actual experience as a paralegal and either the NALA Certification, 2 additional years of experience, or a baccalaureate/additional paralegal education.

The 2017 applications are now available at [www.tbls-bcp.org](http://www.tbls-bcp.org) through June 30. Applicant results will be sent in August and the exam is on November 4, 2017 in Austin. Make history, and be one of the first Paralegals to be Board Certified in Oil, Gas & Mineral Law.



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## Child Welfare Specialty Area Approved for 2018

Recently, the Texas Supreme Court approved the 23rd TBLS specialty area — Child Welfare Law. It's through the efforts of the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission), the State Bar of Texas Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, and with the consent and support of the Supreme Court of Texas that TBLS is able to offer the new Board Certification in Child Welfare Law.



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The overwhelming positive response was due to the strong interest to help ensure that our state's most vulnerable citizens receive high quality, competent legal representation when dealing with the state's child protection system.

Child Welfare certification is focused on attorneys who serve as ad items for children in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases and those who provide legal counsel to parents whose children have been removed from their custody. It also includes attorneys who represent the State of Texas in child abuse and neglect proceedings. It does not include specialization in legal representation in private child custody or adoption matters where the State is not a party.

The new [Standards for Certification in Child Welfare Law](#) are now online with 2018 applications available next spring. Please visit "[Get Certified](#)" and enter your email address to receive updates and the application as soon as they are available.

