



Certification Matters

New Specialty Areas in the Works

Child Welfare Law — The proposed Child Welfare Law 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. The proposed standards are currently under TBLS review.

Paralegal Oil, Gas and Mineral Law — The proposed Paralegal Oil, Gas and Mineral Law specialty would designate those that assist attorneys with land titles and surface use, conveyances, contracts, statutes and regulations, litigation and other oil, gas and mineral law transactions. These proposed standards are currently under TBLS review prior to the public comment period.

5 Steps to Create a New Specialty Area

Few attorneys and paralegals know that new specialty area ideas can come directly from them. In fact, we encourage this! The efforts to launch Construction Law as a new specialty area was spearheaded by attorneys from the SBOT's Construction Law Section who felt a new specialty area for this practice would benefit the industry and clients.

With 22 attorney specialty areas and 7 paralegal specialties, TBLS has room to grow. We'd love to hear from our members, attorneys and paralegals statewide on what new areas we should consider. Here are 5 steps to get started.

1. Gather a committed group of attorneys or paralegals who have a dedicated interest in creating a new specialty area.
2. Complete a short application, which can be found on [page 2 of this sheet](#).
3. Craft the specialty area's proposed Standards for Certification.
4. Compile 100 signatures in support of the new designation.
5. Submit the application, the proposed Standards for Certification, and the 100 signatures to TBLS for consideration.

TBLS will then review the submission and decide whether to proceed with creation of the proposed new specialty area. In the case of attorneys, a proposed new specialty area must be submitted for public comment and then for consideration by the Texas Supreme Court.

If you have any questions about this process, contact us at tbls@tbls.org.

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