

## Requirements of Legal Specialization Commissioners

**\*Please Note:** Sitting commissioners may apply for specialization but are NOT exempt from taking the required specialty exam.

Please send letter of interest and CV to [kkennedy@nmba.org](mailto:kkennedy@nmba.org) or by mail to:

**State Bar of New Mexico  
Attn: Office of the General Counsel  
5121 Masthead St NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109**

**Composition:** The commission shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the BBC. All commissioners shall be lawyers who have passed the bar examination, are licensed and in good standing to practice law in New Mexico and have practiced law for a minimum of seven years. Members of the commission shall be representative of the legal profession and may include lawyers who are in general practice as well as those who are board certified specialists. One member shall be designated commission chairperson by the BBC. Commissioners should have expertise/interest in Legal Specialization and/or Exam creation.

**Terms:** Initially, the BBC shall appoint commissioners to staggered terms of office as follows: two (2) commissioners to serve one (1) year terms; two (2) commissioners to serve two (2) year terms; and three commissioners to serve three (3) year terms. Appointment by the BBC to a vacancy shall be for the remaining term of the commissioner leaving the commission. Any commissioner shall be eligible for reappointment to no more than one (1) additional three (3) year term after having served one full three (3) year term.

### **Powers and duties of the Commission**

The commission shall have general jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to regulation of legal specialization and certification of specialists in the practice of law and shall have the following powers and duties:

- Establish and administer the necessary procedures, policies and regulations required to regulate legal specialization in New Mexico;
- Approve law practice specialties and define the scope and limits of such specialties;
- Appoint, supervise, act on the recommendations of and consult with specialty committees;
- Establish standards for the certification of specialists, upon the commission's own initiative or upon consideration of recommendations made by the specialty committees, such standards to be designed to produce a uniform level of competence among the various specialties in accordance with the nature of the specialties;
- Establish minimum examination requirements and standards;
- Certify specialists or deny, suspend or revoke the certification of specialists upon the board's own initiative, upon recommendations made by the specialty committees or

upon requests for review of recommendations made by the specialty committees;

- Cooperate with other boards or agencies in enforcing standards of professional conduct and to report apparent violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct of this state to the appropriate disciplinary authority; and
- Cooperate with other organizations, boards and agencies engaged in the certification of legal specialists or concerned with the topic of legal specialization.