

August 15, 2024

**Jennifer R Rebholz
Zwilinger Wulkan
2020 N CENTRAL AVE STE 675
PHOENIX AZ 85004-4581**

Dear Ms. Rebholz:

As you may know, one of the professional development programs offered by the State Bar of Arizona is the Legal Specialization program. Being a State Bar of Arizona Board-Certified Specialist has long been a mark of excellence and a significant accomplishment. To become a Board-Certified Specialist, a lawyer must demonstrate special and advanced knowledge, skills and proficiency in their area of law.

The Bar currently offers this opportunity in ten areas of practice. Applicants undergo a significant screening process which includes their disciplinary history, must be well-regarded by their peers as substantiated by at least three peer reviews and must pass a specialization examination in their chosen specialization area. All applications are reviewed by an Advisory Commission during the certification process as well. Each Advisory Commission then provides their recommendation to the Board of Legal Specialization for each applicant. The Board then acts on those recommendations. Only those lawyers who undergo this rigorous process, or who have been certified by a national entity accredited by the State Bar are allowed to hold themselves out as Board-Certified Specialists.

I am establishing a Legal Specialization Task Force to provide recommendations on how this program may be better promoted and made more desirable to members of the State Bar. These recommendations may include how the public may be better educated about the significance and benefits of hiring a legal specialist, and how to find one.

Based on your experience and anticipated valuable input, I am inviting you to serve on this important task force which will be chaired by former State Bar President and Board-Certified Specialist Jennifer Rebholz. I anticipate that the Task Force will begin to meet in September 2024 and will conclude its work and provide its recommendations by March 31, 2025. State Bar staff will provide administrative support and their program-specific expertise.

Thank you in advance for considering service on this Task Force. Please confirm your acceptance of this invitation by contacting BLS Administrator, Mabel Ramirez, Mabel.Ramirez@staff.azbar.org, on or before August 25, 2024.



Ted Schmidt
President, State Bar of Arizona