



## Legal Assistant

**Exam Code: 4PB29**

**Department:** State of California

**Exam Type:** Servicewide, Open

**Final Filing Date:** Continuous

### CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

**Legal Assistant** – \$4,247.00 - \$5,317.00 per month.

View [the Legal Assistant classification specification](#)

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

#### **Who Should Apply:**

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination.

Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for **twelve (12)** months.

#### **How To Apply:**

The link to connect to the Training and Experience Evaluation is located farther down on this bulletin in the "Taking the Exam" section.

#### **Special Testing Arrangements:**

If you require special testing arrangements due to a verified disability or medical condition, please contact:

California Department of Human Resources CalCareer  
Service Center

Bulletin Date: 12/13/2023

1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (866) 844-8671

Email: [CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV](mailto:CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV)

California Relay Service: 7-1-1 (TTY and voice)

TTY is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf, and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TTY Device

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this exam bulletin to be accepted into the examination. Part-time or full-time jobs, regardless of whether paid or volunteer positions, and inside or outside California state service will count toward experience.

### Legal Assistant

#### Education

Successful completion of six semester units of paralegal or undergraduate legal courses, with at least three units of which must be in legal research. (Candidates who have completed three semester units of paralegal course work necessary to fulfill the education requirement will be admitted to the examination, but they must submit evidence of completion of the required six units before they can be considered for appointment.) **And**

#### Either 1

Experience: Two years of experience in the California state service as a Senior Legal Typist, Range B; Legal Secretary, or other classification with law-related duties, involving the review, preparation, or interpretation of legal documents or involving the conduct of investigations or studies leading to legal actions.

#### Or 2

Experience: Three years of responsible experience as a law clerk or legal secretary in a law firm, corporate law office, governmental or public law office, non-profit organization, educational institution, court, or other entity under the direction and supervision of a licensed attorney or judicial officer. Academic education above the twelfth grade may be substituted for one year of the required experience on the basis of either (a) one year of general education being equivalent to three months of experience, or (b) two years of education in a recognized attorney assistant program in probate, tax law, labor law, corporate law, litigation, or other law-related areas being equivalent to one year of experience.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Legal Assistant

Under the immediate direction, control, and responsibility of an attorney, to perform a wide variety of paralegal duties; and to do other related work.

The class of Legal Assistant is a paraprofessional class established to provide full-time employment in a legal program in State service. Incumbents work as an assistant to an attorney. The class is designed for permanent employment where incumbents can properly be delegated the more routine paralegal duties by an attorney. It is distinguished from legal clerical classes in that more difficult technical duties and responsibilities are assigned.

## EXAMINATION SCOPE

This examination consists of the following components:

**Training and Experience Evaluation** – Weighted 100% of the final score.

The examination will consist solely of a **Training and Experience Evaluation**. To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received. Applicants will receive their score upon completion of the Training and Experience Evaluation process.

In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's:

### Knowledge and Abilities

**Knowledge of:** Basic legal concepts, terminology, principles, and procedures; use of legal reference material; and legal office management principles.

**Ability to:** Reason logically; analyze situations accurately and recommend an effective course of action; write effectively; prepare reports and summary sheets set forth a statement of the facts, applications of the relevant law, and conclusions; read and understand statutes, court decisions, legal documents, and similar material; work cooperatively with attorneys, clerical staff, technical staff, and the general public; and explain the provision of law, procedures, and problems to persons contacted in the work.

## ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

A servicewide, open eligible list for the **Legal Assistant** classification will be established for the State of California (all State of California departments, statewide).

The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires **twelve (12) months** after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility.

Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and [the Veterans' Preference Application](#) (Std. form 1093) is available online. Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Career Credits **will not** be added to the final score for this exam, because it does not meet the requirements to qualify for Career Credits.

## EXAMINATION INFORMATION

[Preview of the Legal Assistant Training and Experience Evaluation](#)

## PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to taking the exam.

**Employment History:** Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

**Education:** School names and addresses, degrees earned, dates attended, courses taken (verifiable on a transcript), persons or office who can verify education, and phone numbers of persons or offices listed above.

**Training:** Class titles, certifications received, names of persons who can verify your training, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

## TAKING THE EXAMINATION

**We recommend using Chrome, Firefox, or Edge for optimal performance when accessing the examination.**

Take [the Legal Assistant examination](#)

## TESTING DEPARTMENTS

State of California (all State of California departments)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

California Department of Human Resources  
CalCareer Service Center  
1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

## **DRUG-FREE STATEMENT**

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State work place. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your [CalCareer Account](#).

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

**General Qualifications:** Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

**Eligible Lists:** Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental

promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.