



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIREMENT RELATING TO
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA**

All applicants for admission to practice law are required to provide a social security number pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 30 (California's tax enforcement provisions) and Family Code Section 17520 (Child Support Enforcement Program.)

Business and Professions Code Section 30 provides that:

[A] licensing board may not process any application for an original license or for renewal of a license unless the applicant or licensee provides its federal employer identification number or social security number where requested on the application.

Family Code Section 17520(6)(d) provides that:

Notwithstanding any other law, all boards shall collect social security numbers from all applicants for the purpose of matching the names of the certified list provided by the department to applicants and licensees and of responding to requests for information made by child support agencies.

EXEMPTIONS

Foreign attorney applicants AND foreign-educated law school applicants who are not admitted to the practice of law who are not able to obtain social security numbers because they do not qualify for one, may request that they be exempted from the requirement of providing a social security number. To qualify for an exemption, applicants must state the reason they are unable to qualify for a social security number, provide an alternate identification number and attest to not being in arrears with any court ordered child or family support obligations. (*See Business and Professions Code Section 6060.6.*)

Foreign-educated law school applicants (applicants who are not admitted to the practice of law in any jurisdiction) may request exemption from the social security number requirement by completing page 4 of the "Registration as a Foreign-Educated General Applicant Not Admitted to the Practice of Law in any United States or Foreign Jurisdictions" application and attaching the requested documentation. The registration application can be downloaded from the Foreign Education section on the Admissions portion of the State Bar's website at:

<http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Portals/4/documents/certification/Registration As A Foreign Educated General Applicant 0816 R.pdf>

Foreign attorney applicants can obtain an attorney registration application and a social security number exemption form by sending a written request to the Los Angeles Office of Admissions or emailing their request to admissions.la@calbar.ca.gov, which request must include the complete mailing address of where they would like to receive the registration packet. Both the social security exemption form and the registration application must be submitted at the same time; otherwise, the process will be delayed.

You may contact the Office of Admissions if you have any questions at (213) 765-1500.