The table *below* provides a brief description of our different panels and the requirements to join each. Please note we require that you have been attorney of record and first chair to satisfy the listed requirements unless otherwise noted. ***CAAP may consider alternative, similar experience in lieu of the stated requirements, but applicants must provide a letter explicitly setting forth which requirement the alternative experience is being offered in lieu of.***

***Certified Law Specialists*** will not be required to provide any additional documentation to demonstrate they satisfy our requirements listed *below* to join Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Applicants who affirm they have gained the requisite experience for the panel level they are applying for during their ***prior employment at either a PD or DA's*** office may not need to provide any additional documentation to meet the requirements in the table for the panel level applying for.

***Additional requirements noted after the table.*** To begin the application process, fill out our efficient online application. For more information about the program visit our FAQ page.

| Panel | Description | Requirements |
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| **Death Penalty** (Special Circumstance) | Defendants charged with special circumstances and where the District Attorney is seeking the death penalty. | 1. Ten (10) years of active litigation experience;<br>2. Lead counsel in five (5) serious or violent felonies, including 3 murder trials;<br>3. Five (5) felony jury trials;<br>4. Five (5) additional jury trials;<br>5. Two (2) trials of any kind where you presented psychiatric testimony or other expert testimony.<br>6. Thirty (30) additional criminal matters which may include juvenile court proceedings relating to allegations of criminal misconduct to disposition; ***and***<br>7. Any of the following ***two***:<br>a. (15) Preliminary Hearings within 3 years<br>b. (5) 1538.5 or other suppression motions where you examined witnesses within 3 years<br>c. (3) petitions or answers filed in extraordinary writ proceedings;<br>d. (3) appeals where briefs were filed; ***or*** |

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| | | e. five (5) additional jury trials; ***and***<br><br>7. Have completed, within the last two (2) years of appointment in a DP case: 15 hours of capital defense trainings approved for MCLE credit.<br><br>(Where the requirements as set forth in by CA Rule of Court 4.117 conflict with the requirements above, the higher standard will apply.) |
| **LWOP** | Defendants charged with offenses where the maximum possible punishment is life without the possibility of parole. | 1. Eight (8) serious felony jury trials, including at least one (1) murder case; ***or***<br>a. Two (2) violent felony jury trials where life was the potential sentence, including at least one (1) murder case tried to argument, verdict or final judgment in CA;<br>2. Two (2) additional criminal jury trials;<br>3. Two (2) trials of any kind where you presented psychiatric testimony or other expert testimony;<br>4. Thirty (30) additional criminal matters which may include juvenile court proceedings relating to allegations of criminal misconduct to disposition; ***and***<br>5. Any of the following ***two***:<br>a. (15) Preliminary Hearings within 3 years<br>b. (5) 1538.5 or other suppression motions where you examined witnesses within 3 years<br>c. (3) petitions or answers filed in extraordinary writ proceedings;<br>d. (3) appeals where briefs were filed; ***or***<br>e. five (5) additional jury trials |
| **Class 1** (including juvenile delinquency cases, probation and parole violations) | Defendants charged with offenses where the maximum possible punishment is either life or more than 25 years. | 1. Five (5) felony jury trials in California, including at least (2) where the potential sentence was more than 25 years;<br>2. Five (5) additional criminal jury trials;<br>3. Thirty (30) additional criminal matters which may include juvenile court proceedings relating to allegations of criminal misconduct to disposition; ***and***<br>4. Any of the following ***two***:<br>a. (15) Preliminary Hearings within 3 years |

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| | | b. (5) 1538.5 or other suppression motions where you examined witnesses within 3 years<br>c. (3) petitions or answers filed in extraordinary writ proceedings;<br>d. (3) appeals where briefs were filed;<br>e. (5) additional jury trials. |
| **SVP** | Where the District Attorney has filed a petition to have the defendant civilly committed as a Sexually Violent Predatory (SVP). | 1. Meet all the requirements for Class 1; ***and***<br>2. Demonstrated experience having handled and represented a person facing an SVP petition. |
| **Post Convictions** (including *Habeas* Petitions) | Defendant, having previously been sentenced by a court in Alameda County, who is entitled to counsel in connection with a petition asking the court to modify that sentence. | 1. Meet all the requirements for Class 1; ***and***<br>2. Demonstrated experience having handled and represented persons seeking post-conviction relief; ***and***<br>3. Significant experience and understanding of Alameda County's criminal system or trial experience at the state level. |
| **Class 2** (including juvenile delinquency cases, probation and parole violations) | Defendants charged with offenses where the maximum possible punishment is more than 10 years but less than 25 years. | 1. Twenty-five (25) criminal matters which may include juvenile court proceedings relating to allegations of criminal misconduct to disposition;<br>2. Ten (10) preliminary examinations within 3 years<br>3. Three (3) felony jury trials;<br>4. Two (2) additional jury trials;<br>5. Three (3) contested PC 1538.5 hearings within 3 years; *and*<br>6. Two (2) contested factual hearings within 3 years. |

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| **Class 3** (including juvenile delinquency cases, probation and parole violations) | All other felonies and any misdemeanor that requires registration as a sex offender. | 1. Eighteen (18) criminal matters which may include juvenile court proceedings relating to allegations of criminal misconduct to disposition; including having represented at least 1 charged defendant/minor from plea up through sentencing;<br>2. Five (5) jury trials;<br>3. Five (5) contested factual hearings within 3 years;<br>4. Ten (10) preliminary examinations within 3 years.<br>5. Have filed and argued a motion accompanied by points and authorities or conducted a hearing where testimony was taken; ***and***<br>6. Have filed another motion in any CA court. |
| **Class 4** (including juvenile delinquency cases, probation and violations) | Any theft offense charged as a misdemeanor and/or all other misdemeanors in which the possible sentence is one year in the county jail. | 1. Three (3) criminal matters which may include juvenile court proceedings relating to allegations of criminal misconduct (i.e. DMV hearings) to disposition, including having represented at least 1 charged defendant/minor from plea up through sentencing;<br>2. Have filed and argued a motion accompanied by points and authorities or conducted a hearing where testimony was taken; ***and***<br>3. Have filed another motion in any court in CA. |
| **Class 5** (including juvenile delinquency cases, probation violations) | All other misdemeanors. | 1. Have filed a motion in any court in CA;<br>2. Observed the entirety of at least (2) court session in an Alameda County misdemeanor calendar department in the preceding three (3) months; ***and***<br>3. Observed at least (2) sessions of a criminal jury trial, at least one of which must have included *voir dire*, in the preceding three (3) months (please note the case name and briefly describe what you observed). |
| **Misdemeanor Appeals** | Handling the entirety of an appeal following conviction by jury trial. | 1. Two (2) criminal appeals, from settling the record, research, writing and submission; ***and***<br>2. One (1) brief or motion of at least 15 pages. |

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| **Family Law Contempt** | Representing defendants being charged with criminal contempt in connection with allegedly violating a family law court order. | Two (2) criminal contempt cases; ***or*** requirements for Class 5 (*above*) and a basic understanding of Family Law. |

**BELOW ARE SOME OF THE ADDITIONAL THINGS WE MAY REQUIRE YOU TO DO AFTER SUBMITTING THE INITIAL ONLINE APPLICATION. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PROGRAM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE LESS OR MORE THAN WHAT IS LISTED BELOW:**

- An in-person interview.
- Writing sample. The sample should include a factual statement and an analysis of legal principles and must have been prepared entirely by the applicant and include the date it was filed or submitted.
- A numbered, table listing the cases that satisfy our requirements for the panel(s) you are applying to. This chart must include the following information: case #, defendant's name, year, charges, county, result, co-counsel, DA and judge. *CAAP is happy to provide you with a table already formatted with these headings for your convenience.*
- Complete 6 hrs. of MCLE-approved continuing education courses in criminal law in the last 12 months of the date of your application. Exceptions can be made for applicants wishing only to handle Family Law contempt matters depending on the applicant's experience.
- If you are applying to be on any of our juvenile delinquency panels, you will need complete the requisite hours required to accept juvenile delinquency appointments and provide a completed JV-700 form.
- Panel attorneys will be required to have a location to meet clients and/or family, friends, etc. of the client within Alameda County that is secure and where they are able to maintain privacy and confidentiality.
- Demonstrated training and/or experience of basic understanding of your responsibilities around advising clients of the potential consequences to their immigration status.

You are strongly encouraged to review CAAP's Rules and Regulations, Fee Schedule and Guidelines and Best Practices Guide prior to submitting an application.