

THE SPECTACLE

The California State Board of Optometry protects the health and safety of California consumers through licensing and regulation of the practices of optometry and opticianry.

SPRING IS HERE!

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of *The Spectacle*! In this issue, you will find the following updates:

- **Honoring a Legacy of Service: Dr. Lillian Wang, O.D. and Kristina Eklund**
- **Spring Allergies and Your Eyes: What to Watch for This Season**
- **New Optometry Graduates: Read This!**
- **BreEZe Basics: Helpful Tips for Licensees**
- **2026 Eye Care Trends: What's on the Horizon**
- **Board of Optometry Strategic Plan**
- **Who's New at CSBO: Andrew Moreno & Julietta Castillo**
- **Executive Officer's Visit to University of California, Berkeley**
- **Legislative and Regulatory Updates for 2026**
- **2026 Board and Committee Meeting Dates**
- **Scam Alert!**
- **Recent Administrative and Disciplinary Actions**

Keep reading to get the latest news and updates from the Board!



Honoring a Legacy of Service: Farewell to Dr. Lillian Wang, O.D.



Farewell Feature: Honoring the Service of Lillian Wang, O.D.

After more than a decade of distinguished service, the California State Board of Optometry extends its deepest appreciation to Lillian Wang, O.D., as she concludes her term on the Board. Dr. Wang

was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2015 and reappointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2023, contributing expert insight, steady leadership, and an unwavering commitment to public protection throughout her tenure.

Dr. Wang brought a broad range of clinical and academic experience to her role. She has served as an optometrist with the Lafayette Optometric Group since 2004 and as an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry since 2000. Her background also includes a residency in pediatric optometry and prior academic service at the State University of New York School of Optometry.

Beyond her Board work, Dr. Wang’s influence was felt across numerous committees and workgroups, where she helped advance policies, uphold professional standards, and strengthen consumer protections. She served as Chair of the Legislation and Regulation Committee, Chair of the NBEO/ARBO Workgroup, and Chair of the Practice and Education Committee. Her leadership shaped key discussions on regulation, examinations, education, and professional practice.

As we honor Dr. Wang’s years of service, we asked her to reflect on her time with the Board and share insights from her experiences.

Looking back on your tenure, what are you most proud of during your time on the Board?

I am most proud of the implementation of mobile optometric offices and home residence permits during my tenure on the Board. These initiatives represent a meaningful step forward in expanding access to eye care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

This work was especially significant because it had been under consideration for many years. I had the opportunity to contribute both as a member of the initial mobile clinic workgroup and later as board president when these programs were ultimately approved. Seeing these efforts come to fruition and translate into improved access to care has been particularly rewarding.

You chaired several committees and workgroups. Which project or initiative had the greatest impact on you, and why?

I have served as chair of the Practice and Education (PEC) Committee for many years, and one of the most impactful efforts during that time has been modernizing the Board’s CE program while strengthening compliance through audits. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were among the first states to recognize live synchronous CE as equivalent to in-person education, ensuring uninterrupted access and expanding opportunities for licensees. Restarting the audit program was also a key priority, reinforcing accountability and helping ensure that practitioners remain current—ultimately supporting high standards of care and protecting the public.

What originally motivated you to serve on the California State Board of Optometry, and how has that motivation evolved?

I was initially motivated to serve on the California State Board of Optometry by a strong commitment to public service and ensuring high standards of care and access for Californians. I was also aware of the absence of representation from an academic institution on the Board and believed it was important to bring that perspective, particularly in highlighting how we train future optometrists.

Over time, this motivation has grown into a deeper appreciation of the Board’s role in shaping policy that impacts patient care, reinforcing my commitment to bridging clinical practice, education, and public service to help advance the profession and better meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Is there a moment, challenge, or accomplishment from your service that you will never forget?

One accomplishment I am particularly proud of is the significant improvement in licensing processing times. When I joined the Board, delays were a major issue affecting both applicants and access to care.

As board president, I worked closely with our Executive Officer Gregory Pruden to streamline the process, reducing initial application times for optometrists from about three months to under one week. Over the past three years, all license types have seen similar improvements, helping ensure that qualified providers can begin practicing sooner while maintaining high standards.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

What advice would you offer to future Board members or committee chairs?

I encourage future Board members and committee chairs to listen carefully and respect all perspectives. The Board’s strength lies in its diverse composition, with both professional and public members offering valuable insights. There is a deep well of expertise and experience across the Board, and taking the time to thoughtfully consider and incorporate those perspectives is essential. Drawing on that collective knowledge leads to more balanced, informed decision-making as the Board addresses the complex issues before it.

As you look forward to the next chapter, what are you most looking forward to?

As I look forward to the next chapter, I am excited to continue my service in optometric regulation at a broader level. While my

time on the Board is coming to a close, I have been elected to the governing board of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), where I will have the opportunity to contribute on a national stage.

I look forward to bringing the experience and perspective I gained through my work in California to this new role, with the goal of advancing the profession and supporting high-quality eye care for patients across the country.

“Dr. Wang’s thoughtful judgment, depth of expertise, and collaborative spirit have left a lasting imprint on the Board and the profession. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Wang for her years of dedicated service and wish her continued fulfillment and success in all that lies ahead. Her leadership will be truly missed.” – Executive Officer Gregory Pruden

Honoring a Legacy of Service: Farewell to Kristina Eklund



The California State Board of Optometry extends its heartfelt appreciation to Kristina Eklund as she retires from state service and begins a well-deserved new chapter. Known for her attention to detail, organization, and institutional knowledge, Kristina has been a valued member of the Board’s staff for nearly 20 years.

Throughout her tenure, Kristina played an important role in supporting the Board’s operations across several program areas, including billing and financial processing, continuing education (CE) application processing, and preparing Board and committee meeting minutes. Her work helped ensure the smooth administration of key regulatory functions and supported the Board’s mission of consumer protection.

Kristina’s professionalism, reliability, and positive presence made her a trusted colleague and a vital part of daily Board operations. As she concludes her service, we honor not only the duties she performed, but the care, consistency, and pride she brought to her work each day.

To celebrate her retirement, we invited Kristina to reflect on her career and her time with the Board.

How long have you served with the California State Board of Optometry, and what first brought you here?

I began my service with the Board on October 1, 2006. I was looking for a growth/skill-stretching experience with new challenges, so I accepted a promotional position with the Board.

Looking back, what accomplishments or moments are you most proud of?

All of it, really. I am proud of my work for the Board, its licensees, and constituents. I would have to say that working in continuing education has been my favorite.

What advice would you offer to newer staff joining the Board?

Ask questions, take notes, be reliable, and communicate often. That’s how you will succeed here.

What’s a fun fact about you, or a memory that always makes you smile when you think about your time at the Board?

A colleague had announced that she was about to leave for a medical procedure and another colleague replied “okay, have a nice procedure.” It became a long-standing joke at the Board and whenever someone had to leave for a medical appointment, we would all reply “have a nice procedure.”

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

As you look ahead, what are you most excited about in retirement?

So many things! I'm looking forward to putting in a full time effort in building my business Digital Farm Designs; spending time with my family; family vacations and day trips; lots of time with the grandkids; taking up hobbies I have been wanting to learn; and horse riding with my daughters.

"Thank you Kristina for your dedicated service to the Board and the state of California. Your work preparing countless continuing education course applications was vital for the Board's continuing education program. We wish you all the best in retirement." – Executive Officer Gregory Pruden

BreEZe Basics: Helpful Tips for Licensees

Navigating BreEZe doesn't have to be confusing. Whether you're renewing your license, updating your address, managing your application, or applying for the first time, these helpful reminders can make the process smoother and help you avoid delays.

Accessing Your Account

- Users are allowed six failed login attempts before the system locks the account.
- Usernames are not case sensitive; passwords are case sensitive.
- Passwords must include a minimum of eight characters, one uppercase and one lowercase letter, one number, one special character, and cannot match or resemble your user ID.

What You Can Do in BreEZe

BreEZe allows licensees to complete many tasks online, including:

- Applying for a license or additional certifications
- Renewing or updating a license
- Making address or name changes
- Paying fees securely
- Requesting a Letter of Verification
- Filing a complaint
- Accessing real time license information

Who Can Help?

CSBO Board staff are here to help with license related questions, but some issues must be handled through the BreEZe Help Desk. CSBO Board staff cannot:

- Create BreEZe accounts
- Reset passwords or unlock accounts
- Link licenses to BreEZe accounts
- Troubleshoot system error messages



For technical issues or access problems, please contact the BreEZe Help Desk: (916) 557-1208 or BreEZe@dca.ca.gov.

Tips to Avoid Delays

- Check your email spam or junk folder for automated BreEZe or PSI messages.
- Do not complete fingerprinting before opening the Part 2 application—results may not attach correctly.
- DOJ fingerprint processing timelines cannot be expedited by staff.
- Keep your contact information updated so you do not miss important notifications.

Need Help While You're Logged In?

Most pages in BreEZe include "Quick Answers to Quick Questions," which provide guidance on common tasks such as renewal, address updates, or managing permits.

If you have questions that are not technical in nature, please contact the Board directly at (916) 575-7170 or optometrylicensing@dca.ca.gov. Staff are here to help and encourage open communication.

Spring Allergies and Your Eyes: What to Watch for This Season

Spring has arrived, and increased pollen levels and longer days outdoors can bring more than just warmer weather; they can also trigger uncomfortable eye symptoms. Seasonal allergies commonly affect the eyes and visual comfort, sometimes interfering with daily activities, work, and recreation. Understanding how allergies impact eye health can help reduce symptoms and protect vision throughout the season.

How Spring Allergies Affect the Eyes

Airborne allergens, such as tree, grass, and weed pollen, can enter the eyes and activate the body's immune response. This reaction leads to the release of histamine and inflammatory chemicals, primarily affecting the conjunctiva, the thin, transparent tissue covering the white of the eye and lining the eyelids.

When this tissue becomes inflamed, individuals may experience symptoms that affect both **vision quality** and **eye comfort**.

Common Visual and Comfort-Related Symptoms

Spring allergies may lead to temporary changes in visual function, including:

- Fluctuating or blurry vision caused by excessive tearing
- Swelling of the eyelids that interferes with normal blinking
- Increased sensitivity to sunlight or bright indoor lighting

Discomfort-related symptoms may include:

- Itching, burning, or redness
- A gritty or foreign-body sensation
- Tired or strained eyes, especially after screen use

While these symptoms are often temporary, persistent or severe irritation should be evaluated by a licensed optometrist.

Allergic Eye Conditions to Know

Several eye conditions are associated with allergic reactions:

Seasonal Allergic Conjunctivitis

- Occurs during high pollen seasons, most commonly spring
- Often accompanied by sneezing, congestion, or a runny nose
- May cause redness, itching, and watery eyes

Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis

- Occurs year-round
- Triggered by indoor allergens such as dust mites, pet dander, or mold
- Symptoms are usually milder but more persistent

More Severe Allergic Conditions

- Vernal keratoconjunctivitis
- Atopic keratoconjunctivitis
- Contact lens-related allergic reactions

These conditions may affect the cornea and, if left untreated, can impact vision, making professional care essential.

Managing Eye Allergies This Spring

Avoiding allergens entirely can be difficult, especially during outdoor activities common in spring. However, steps can be taken to reduce exposure and irritation.

Environmental Tips

- Monitor pollen counts and limit outdoor time during peak hours.
- Keep windows closed and use air conditioning when possible.
- Shower and change clothes after spending time outdoors.
- Maintain clean indoor air with proper filtration.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Eye Care and Treatment

- Avoid rubbing the eyes and worsening inflammation.
- Use preservative-free artificial tears to flush allergens from the eyes.
- Speak with a licensed optometrist about appropriate over-the-counter or prescription eye drops.
- Contact lens wearers should follow proper hygiene and replacement schedules.

Consumers can use **DCA Search** to find a licensed optometrist for evaluation and guidance.

Supporting Long-Term Eye Health

Managing seasonal allergies is part of maintaining overall eye health. Long-term strategies include:

1. Scheduling regular comprehensive eye examinations
2. Staying hydrated and maintaining a balanced diet

3. Practicing good hand and eye hygiene
4. Seeking professional care if symptoms interfere with daily life or vision

Spring should be enjoyed, not spent dealing with irritated eyes. With awareness, preventive steps, and professional care when needed, both licensees and consumers can help keep vision comfortable and healthy throughout allergy season.

Did You Know?

- Rubbing itchy eyes can worsen allergy symptoms by increasing histamine release.
- Artificial tears can help flush allergens from the eye surface and reduce irritation.
- Seasonal eye allergies may temporarily affect vision clarity and light sensitivity.
- Contact lens wearers may notice increased symptoms in spring due to pollen adhering to lenses.



Find Us on Social Media

The Board regularly posts on all its social media platforms – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#).

Did you know that the Board also has an email list? If social media is not your thing, but you still want to stay up-to-date with the Board updates and happenings like optometry/optician regulations and legislation, public Board meeting announcements/agendas, *The Spectacle*, subject matter expert workshops, and all other Board-related updates — subscribe [here](#).





New Optometrist Graduates: *Read This!*

By mid-May, approximately 1,800 students across the United States will graduate from accredited schools and colleges of optometry. At the Board, staff are preparing to receive approximately 300 applications from new graduates. New graduates, please read on as the Board would like to inform you about the process of obtaining your license.

The Board uses an online platform called BreEze for all licensing applications, forms, and account maintenance. Please review the following steps to ensure you are correctly applying for your California optometry license.

1. Navigate to the [BreEze Website](#).
2. Create and register your account.
3. After registering your account, you will be asked to start an application. Please select **Optometrist-Law Exam Request Application Part 1**.
4. Please make sure to add your email address and phone number. Without this information, the application process will be delayed.
5. After you have completed and paid \$279 for Part 1 of the application, PSI will contact you to register for the law and regulations exam. PSI may charge a small fee to administer the exam.
6. Upon successful completion of the law exam, you will go back into BreEze and click "**Manage My Application**". Here, you will find **Part 2** of the application. You will be required to pay \$125 for your optometrist license.

For the Part 2 application to be considered complete, the Board must receive the following:

1. **Transcripts:** It is required for your institution to directly submit your transcripts to the California State Board of Optometry **after you graduate**. Via email is best: OptometryLicensing@dca.ca.gov.
2. **NBEO Scores:** Score reports must be released to the Board. Please contact NBEO to confirm that this option was selected. The report will be released after your graduate. Please include your OE TRACKER number in your application. Staff will use this information to access NBEO scores once you've authorized NBEO to release them to us.
3. **Fingerprints:** Must be submitted on the California State Board of Optometry's Live Scan form. You can email OptometryLicensing@dca.ca.gov and request a Live Scan packet, which will include directions and the form. If you are applying while living outside of California, you will submit your fingerprints by physical or "hard" cards. Contact the Board at OptometryLicensing@dca.ca.gov, providing a mailing address, and requesting hard cards be mailed to you.

The Board also publishes [FAQs](#) and a [PowerPoint presentation](#) for new applicants. Please contact the Board at OptometryLicensing@dca.ca.gov with any questions.

2026 Eye Care Trends: What's on the Horizon

Eye care experienced significant changes in 2025, as technology advanced and patient expectations evolved. That momentum continues into 2026, with innovations designed to improve access, efficiency, and patient experience. Here's what's on the horizon.

1. AI AND ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS ARE TAKING CENTER STAGE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have already made waves in eye care, and the momentum is only building. These tools can help practitioners detect conditions earlier, personalize treatment plans, and streamline workflows. Combined with telehealth, the emergence and proliferation of these technologies also threaten to disrupt traditional models of delivering eyecare. While these technologies and tools have exciting potential to improve the patient's experience and improve health outcomes, they do not replace the clinical decisionmaking of a licensed and experienced practitioner.

2. TELE-OPTOMETRY AND REMOTE CARE KEEP GROWING

Virtual consultations, remote screenings, and even home visits aren't just trends, they're becoming essential. Patients want flexibility, and remote care can provide that. In 2025, the Board began offering **Home Residence Permits**, authorizing licensed optometrists to provide eye care directly to homebound patients, expanding patient access to care. However, practitioners must remember that consumer notice and informed consent requirements apply when delivering optometric eye care directly to a homebound patient or when using telehealth. The Board provides an **example consumer notice for the Home Residence Permit Program** and the law requires optometrists to inform patients about the use of telehealth and obtain documented consent prior to delivering any eye care via telehealth.

This shift is a gamechanger for rural communities and busy patients because direct-to-patient approaches can improve access to care and patient health.

3. EYE CARE DEMAND IS RISING - HERE'S WHY

Two big factors are driving demand: an aging population and our screen-heavy lifestyles. Older adults need more monitoring for conditions like glaucoma and macular degeneration, while younger patients are facing issues such as dry eye, digital eye strain, and even early-onset myopia.

Optometry practices are continuing to focus more on prevention, early intervention (especially for kids), and managing chronic eye health - not just correcting vision.

4. SMART EYEWEAR AND WEARABLES ARE THE NEXT BIG THING

Eyewear is getting an upgrade. Think of smart glasses and lenses that do more than correct vision, but also technological advancements to drive improvements in eye health. In late 2025, the FDA authorized the first spectacle lenses to slow myopia progression in children ages six to 12. Myopia is a chronic disease impacting more than 40% of the U.S. population. Consumers expect features such as blue-light filtering, health tracking, and integration with other digital services, along with their prescription. Your glasses might soon be as smart as your phone.

5. CHALLENGES AHEAD

Of course, growth comes with hurdles. High costs for advanced equipment, and regulatory and policy issues around telehealth, data privacy, and AI will need careful study and attention. As practitioners expand the tools and technologies they employ in their practices, the first consideration should always be the health of the patient.

IN CONCLUSION

For licensees, the rapid pace of change highlights the need for flexibility, ongoing education, and awareness of evolving technologies and regulations. Staying informed will help ensure innovation supports safe, effective, and patient-focused care.



The Board's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan

The California State Board of Optometry has adopted its 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, outlining how the Board will continue to protect the public while supporting a modern, effective eye care system over the next several years.

At the core of the plan is the Board's mission to safeguard the health and safety of California consumers through the licensing, regulation, and oversight of optometry and opticianry. To achieve this, the plan focuses on six key goal areas designed to strengthen public protection, improve transparency, and adapt to changes in eye care delivery.

1. **Licensing and Registration:** Strengthen communication and alignment of licensing, application, and continuing education requirements.
2. **Examination:** Maintain a fair and modern examination process while improving communication and support for exam applicants.
3. **Enforcement:** Enhance consumer protection through consistent, efficient enforcement and clear disciplinary and complaint processes.
4. **Outreach and Education:** Expand education and communication efforts to better inform consumers, licensees, and stakeholders about eye care and regulatory updates.
5. **Laws and Regulations:** Update and develop regulations reflecting current practices, emerging technologies, and a continued focus on consumer safety.

6. **Administration and Customer Service:** Improve customer service, modernize online resources, and strengthen communication to better serve licensees and the public.

Looking Ahead

The 2026–2029 Strategic Plan reflects the Board's ongoing commitment to protecting consumers while adapting to a changing eye care landscape. Through thoughtful regulation, outreach, and oversight, the Board continues to support safe, ethical, and high-quality eye care for all Californians.

Specifically, licensees can expect:

- Ongoing updates to licensing, examination, and continuing education processes.
- Greater consistency and transparency in enforcement and disciplinary actions.
- Increased outreach and clearer communication regarding laws, regulations, and policy changes.
- Regulatory attention to emerging technologies, including the use of artificial intelligence in eye care.
- Improvements to customer service and online resources to support compliance.

Staying informed of Board communications and regulatory updates will help licensees meet professional obligations and continue to practice safely, ethically, and within scope of practice.

Who is New at the Board: New Board Member and Staff Receptionist



WELCOMING ANDREW MORENO

***“We are pleased to welcome Andrew to the Board. His legal expertise, leadership experience, and multidisciplinary background will be a tremendous asset to our work in protecting California consumers.”
Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer***

The California State Board of Optometry is pleased to welcome Andrew Moreno, of Fresno, as the newest member of the Board. Mr. Moreno begins his term with a strong commitment to public service and consumer protection.

Mr. Moreno has a wide-ranging background in law, communication, sustainability, and public-sector project management, along with more than a decade of experience at

The Moreno Law Group, where he has served in roles including Post-graduate Law Clerk, Managing Director, and, since 2021, of Counsel. His professional pathway also includes service as Project Manager at the Economic Vitality Corporation of San Luis Obispo and Grants Manager at RM Associates.

Mr. Moreno holds an impressive academic portfolio, including a Juris Doctor degree from California Northwestern University, a Master of Liberal Arts in Environmental Management and Sustainability from Harvard University Extension School, a Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Saint Mary’s College of California. His diverse education and professional experience uniquely position him to contribute meaningful insight to the Board’s consumer protection and regulatory responsibilities.

As he begins his term, we asked Andrew to share more about his background, interests, and what he hopes to bring to the Board.

What motivated you to accept the appointment to the California State Board of Optometry?

I was honored to be considered for the appointment and saw it as a meaningful opportunity to serve Californians. I have always believed public service matters, especially when it comes to protecting consumers and helping ensure people receive safe, professional care. This role gives me the chance to contribute to that work in a thoughtful and practical way.

What areas of consumer protection or regulatory policy are you most interested in exploring as part of your service?

I am especially interested in making sure consumers are protected while also ensuring that the Board’s rules and processes are fair, clear, and responsive to changes in the profession. I look forward to learning more about the issues facing both patients and providers, including access to care, transparency, and how technology is changing the way services are delivered.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10



Andrew Moreno takes the oath of office on April 10, administered by Executive Officer Gregory Pruden, marking the start of his service on the Board.

What are you most looking forward to as you begin your term as a Board Member?

I am looking forward to listening and learning. There is a lot of experience around the table, and I am eager to work with my fellow Board Members, staff, and stakeholders. I hope to bring a practical perspective, ask good questions, and contribute in a way that supports the Board’s mission.

What is something colleagues and readers may be surprised to learn about you?

Something people may be surprised to learn is that, outside of my service on the Board, I am a divorce and estate planning attorney. I have also had the privilege and honor of previously serving as a public member on both the Osteopathic Medical Board and the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. Those experiences gave me a greater appreciation for the important role public members play in consumer protection and professional regulation.

Outside of work, what hobbies, interests, or activities do you enjoy?

Outside of work, I enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends. I also grew up watching WWE and have remained a fan over the years, so I still enjoy attending WWE events whenever I can. I also try to stay connected to my community and value opportunities to remain involved.

The Board welcomes Mr. Moreno’s expertise and looks forward to the important role he will play in protecting consumers and supporting safe, high-quality eye care throughout the state.

Continued from page 11



JULIETA CASTILLO

The California State Board of Optometry is pleased to welcome Julieta Castillo to the Board as an office technician. In this role, Ms. Castillo serves as the first point of contact for consumers, licensees, applicants, and stakeholders, supporting the Board's daily operations and customer service functions.

Ms. Castillo brings a strong background in administrative support, customer service, and office operations. Most recently, she worked as a teacher's aide with STAR Education, supporting daily activities, maintaining records, and

communicating with staff and families. Her prior experience as a claims examiner and receptionist/office assistant strengthened her skills in records management, data processing, and customer communication.

In her role with the Board, Ms. Castillo assists with responding to inquiries, processing applications and payments, coordinating incoming communications, and supporting licensing and administrative functions. Her experience in high-volume, detail-oriented environments supports the Board's mission of providing accurate information and timely service to the public.

As she begins her position, Ms. Castillo shares her perspective:

What excited you most about joining the Board?

I'm excited about the opportunity to deepen my understanding of regulatory processes and stay engaged with evolving standards in optometry and opticianry.

What are you most looking forward to in your new position?

I am looking forward to supporting the team, assisting the public and making it a welcoming experience.

What do you hope to contribute to the Board and its stakeholders?

I hope to contribute by ensuring the public receives clear and accurate information and by supporting smooth office operations.

What's something fun or interesting about you that you'd like colleagues or newsletter readers to know?

I'm someone who really enjoys connecting with people and creating a welcoming environment.

What hobbies, interests, or activities do you enjoy outside of work?

I enjoy reading, cooking, and I love to spend time with my family outdoors.

The Board welcomes Ms. Castillo and looks forward to her contributions in supporting its operations and commitment to public service.

Executive Officer's Visit to University of California, Berkeley

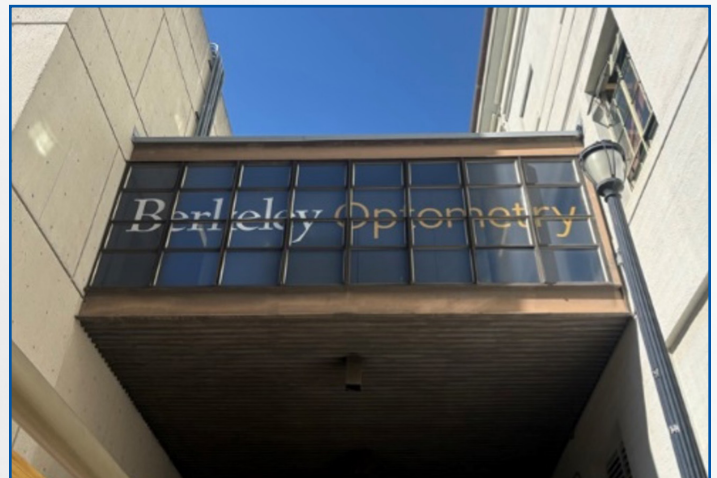
BOARD OUTREACH: EXECUTIVE OFFICER VISITS UC BERKELEY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

The California State Board of Optometry continues its outreach efforts to students enrolled in accredited schools of optometry. Executive Officer Greg Pruden recently provided a presentation to fourth-year students at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry.

During the presentation, students received information on the licensure process, including application requirements, examination steps, and important considerations for new graduates entering practice in California. The presentation also highlighted the Board's mission of consumer protection and the importance of understanding laws and regulations governing the profession.

"Engaging with students at this stage of their careers is an important part of the Board's outreach efforts," said Executive Officer Gregory Pruden. "Providing clear information about licensure and regulatory expectations helps ensure a smooth transition into practice."

Outreach efforts such as these help ensure that future licensees are informed and prepared as they enter practice in California.





STAY VIGILANT AGAINST FRAUDULENT LICENSING COMMUNICATIONS

The Board continues to receive reports of scams targeting both licensees and applicants. These fraudulent communications often appear legitimate and may reference BreEZe accounts, exam scheduling, fingerprinting, license renewal, or required payments. Staying aware of common tactics can help you avoid delays, financial loss, or compromised personal information.

Spot the Red Flags

(Always verify before you click or respond)

- Urgent or threatening language
- Requests for passwords or sensitive information
- Links that do not end in .ca.gov
- Payment requests made outside of BreEZe
- Unexpected attachments or login prompts

COMMON SCAM TACTICS

Impersonation of the Board or DCA

Scammers may pose as the Board, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), or BreEZe, often claiming your license needs immediate action or verification.

Fake BreEZe Account Alerts

Messages may state that your BreEZe account has been locked and direct you to a fraudulent link designed to capture your login credentials.

Fraudulent Exam or PSI Notices

Applicants may receive emails pretending to be from PSI and requesting additional payment to schedule or confirm an exam.

Fingerprinting and Background Check Scams

Scammers may offer to “expedite” Department of Justice (DOJ) background checks for a fee. DOJ processing cannot be expedited by third parties.

False Renewal or Fee Notices

Fake renewal reminders may request immediate payment and direct you to non-government websites or incorrect fee amounts.

How to Protect Yourself

- Access BreEZe only by entering www.breeze.ca.gov directly into your browser.
- Avoid clicking suspicious links or downloading unknown attachments.
- Be cautious of urgent or threatening messages.
- Never share your password or sensitive information by email.
- Verify all payments through official Board or BreEZe channels.

When in Doubt

- Hang up and contact the Board directly at (916) 575-7170 or email optometry@dca.ca.gov.
- Refuse payment requests made by phone, text, or unofficial email.
- Take down the caller’s name, title, phone number or email, and verify independently.
- End the call immediately if it appears suspicious.

DCA reminds all licensees to “think before you click” and verify unexpected communications.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates for 2026

The California State Board of Optometry is monitoring several bills introduced during the current legislative session that may affect Board programs, licensees, and the regulation of optometry and opticianry.

LEGISLATION UPDATE:

AB 1558 (Arambula) – Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

AB 1558 would establish the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, allowing out of state licensed health professionals to provide services in California during declared emergencies. If enacted, this may influence the Board’s role in verifying licensure and coordinating with state agencies on volunteer registration systems.

AB 2756 (Ahrens) – Medi Cal Vision Services Reporting

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to develop and publicly report performance measures for Medi-Cal vision services, including access, utilization, and provider capacity. While it does not directly impact the Board, the bill may affect licensees participating in Medi-Cal and highlights broader vision care access issues.

SB 1445 (BPED Committee) – Sunset Review Technical Clean Up

SB 1445 corrects statutory fee levels for nonresident ophthalmic lens dispensers, restoring them to their prior amounts. This

technical fix does not affect current Board operations, as the incorrect fee levels were never implemented.

REGULATORY UPDATE:

Optician Program Omnibus Regulatory Changes

The Board is evaluating omnibus regulatory updates related to the optician program. These proposed changes aim to improve program efficiency, clarify requirements, and strengthen oversight of dispensing opticians and related registrations.

Dispensing Optician Disciplinary Guidelines

The Board is also reviewing disciplinary guidelines for dispensing opticians to promote consistent enforcement and support consumer protection across the profession.

Glaucoma Certification Requirements

Work continues reviewing and refining glaucoma certification requirements to ensure they align with current clinical practice and statutory authority. These efforts aim to maintain high standards of competency and patient safety.

The Board will continue to monitor these bills and regulatory efforts and will provide updates as needed.





Recent Administrative and Disciplinary Actions Taken by the Board

For the most current list of citations issued and disciplinary actions, please visit www.optometry.ca.gov/consumers/disciplinary.shtml.

The Board provides information regarding administrative and disciplinary actions for immediate access and convenience. You can also access the [DCA Search](#) to verify if a licensed optometrist or optician has had any disciplinary action taken against their license or registration, or to verify the status of a license.

While the Board believes the information to be reliable, human or technical error remains a possibility, as does a possible delay in posting or updating information.

CITATIONS AND FINES

Baer, Joshua Chad (OPT 13368)—El Dorado Hills

On January 27, 2026, a \$2,500 citation was issued to Joshua Chad Baer (OPT 13368) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying his license renewal that the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile.](#)

Cordero, Ebeli (SLD 42816)—Gardena

On February 17, 2026, a citation was issued to Ebeli Cordero (SLD 42816) for a criminal conviction of Driving Under the Influence and Dangerous Use of Alcohol (BPC §§ 2555.5(a), (k), and (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the registrant's SLD profile.](#)

Galang, Randolph (OPT 12957)—Elk Grove

On March 3, 2026, a \$2,000 citation was issued to Randolph Galang (OPT 12957), for failure to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to his patient (BPC §§ 3110(a), (q), and CCR § 1510). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's license profile.](#)

Ha, Trang Nhu (OPT 11998)—Los Angeles

On February 26, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Trang Nhu Ha (OPT 11998) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle. (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile.](#)

Hile III, Daniel (OPT 11356)—Los Osos

On February 10, 2026, a \$1,300 citation was issued to Daniel Hile III (OPT 11356) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying his license renewal that the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR §§ 1536(b) and (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile.](#)

Kazemi, Isabel (OPT 10343)—Berkeley

On January 27, 2026, a \$1,500 citation was issued to Isabel Kazemi (OPT 10343) for a criminal conviction of Driving Under the Influence and Dangerous Use of Alcohol (BPC §§ 3110(a), (k), and (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's license profile.](#)

Lensabl.com (NOLD 63)—Chicago

On March 10, 2026, a \$5,000 citation was issued to Lensabl (NOLD 63), for failure to obtain a Nonresident Ophthalmic Lens Dispenser registration as a business outside the state of California prior to shipping, mailing, furnishing, or delivering in any manner, ophthalmic lenses to a patient at a California address. (BPC §§ 2543, 2555.5(p), 2564.71(a), 2564.74(a), 2564.76(a), 3042, and CCR § 1399.278). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the registrant's NOLD profile.](#)

Lin, Men-Cheh (OPT 12065)—South El Monte

On March 3, 2026, a \$2,100 citation was issued to Men-Cheh Lin (OPT 12065) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying her license renewal the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile.](#)

Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16

Le, Phuc “Dean” Vinh (OPT 12744)—Gilroy

On March 24, 2026, a \$5,000 citation was issued to Phuc “Dean” Vinh Le (OPT 12744) for a failure to make and keep an accurate record of information in a patient’s medical record and using a name other than the name registered with the California State Board of Optometry (BPC §§ 3078(a), 3106, 3110(a), 3110(b), 3110(e), 3110(q), CCR §§ 1510, and 1513). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s license profile.](#)

Marvin Martinez (RDO 70702)

Marvin Martinez (SLD 43716)—Pico Rivera

On March 17, 2026, a \$5,000 citation was issued to Marvin Martinez (SLD 43716 and RDO 70702), doing business as “2020 Lens Optical,” for failure to maintain a current Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Business registration and for engaging in the business of filling prescriptions of physicians and surgeons or optometrists prior to obtaining a current registration, and for providing the services of a Spectacle Lens Dispenser without first obtaining registration. (CCR § 1399.240, BPC §§ 2543(a), 2555.5(a), 2555.5(e), 2555.5(p), 2556.5, 2559.1(a)(1), 2560, 2561, 2564.90, and 2564.91(a)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the registrant’s SLD profile and click here to view the RDO profile.](#)

Nguyen, Peter Hoa (OPT 9919)—Gardena

On February 17, 2026, a \$2,500 citation was issued to Peter Hoa Nguyen (OPT 9919) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying his license renewal that the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Ong, Ellen (OPT 34486)—San Francisco

On January 27, 2026, a \$900 citation was issued to Ellen Ong (OPT 34486) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying her license renewal that the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Perez, Luis M OD (OPT 12750)—Los Angeles

On March 17, 2026, a \$2,000 citation was issued to Dr. Luis M. Perez (OPT 12750) for knowingly entering into a partnership and lease agreement with an unregistered individual and failing to notify the Board of an alternative address where he engaged in the practice of optometry. (BPC §§ 2556.1, 3110(a), 3112(b), and 3070(a)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s license profile.](#)

Quick, Louise Irene (OPT 8987)—Torrance

On January 27, 2026, a \$1,300 citation was issued to Louise Irene Quick (OPT 8987) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying her license renewal that the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Shore, Zachary Kaliman (OPT 15443)—Lafayette

On April 28, 2026, a \$2,500 citation was issued to Zachary Kaliman Shore (OPT 15443) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying his license renewal the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b) & (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Snow, Christine Nguyen (OPT 13273)—Roseville

On January 27, 2026, a \$1,300 citation was issued to Christine Nguyen Snow (OPT 13273) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying her license renewal that the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR §§ 1536(b) & (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Tessah Kanter (OPT 34164)—Los Angeles

On February 19, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Tessah Kanter (OPT 34164) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Tracy, Brian Dale (OPT 9109)—Sacramento

On April 21, 2026, a \$1,300 citation was issued to Brian Dale Tracy (OPT 9109) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying his license renewal the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s profile.](#)

Vallarta, Salvador Orduno (OPT 10972)—El Centro

On March 17, 2026, a \$2,500 citation was issued to Salvador Orduno Vallarta (OPT 10972), for failing to notify a patient that the prescribed eyeglasses were not available, and to take reasonable action to ensure the patient has timely access to the prescribed eyeglasses (BPC §§ 733, 3110(a) and CCR § 1582). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s license profile.](#)

Vancourt, Justin (SLD 43073 and CLD 8975)—Lodi

On January 27, 2026, a citation was issued to Justin Vancourt (SLD 43073 and CLD 8975) for a criminal conviction of Driving Under the Influence and Dangerous Use of Alcohol (BPC §§ 2555.5(a), (k), and (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the registrant’s SLD profile. Click here to view the registrant’s CLD profile.](#)

Wong, Alexander (OPT 10445)—Colton

On February 10, 2026, a \$2,500 citation was issued to Alexander Wong (OPT 10445) for a refusal to comply with a Board request for clinical records, and failure to cooperate and participate with a Board investigation. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (x), HSC §§ 123110(b)(1), (b)(2), and CCR § 1582). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor’s license profile.](#)

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

Wong, Harlan J. (OPT 9125)—Berkeley

On February 24, 2026, a \$1,000 citation was issued to Harlan J. Wong (OPT 9125) for a failure to maintain patient records for seven years after treatment, and failure to provide a patient with their records after a lawful request had been submitted. (BPC §§ 3007, 3110(a), 3110(x), and HSC § 123110(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's license profile.](#)

YesGlasses.com (Unlicensed)

On March 10, 2026, a \$5,000 citation was issued to YesGlasses.com, for failure to obtain a Nonresident Ophthalmic Lens Dispenser registration as a business outside the state of California prior to shipping, mailing, furnishing, or delivering in any manner, ophthalmic lenses to a patient at a California address. (BPC §§ 2543(a), 2555.5(p), 2564.71(a), 2564.74(a), 3042, and CCR § 1399.278). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action.](#)

LICENSE/REGISTRATION DENIED

Lopez, Joseph Daniel (SLD and CLD Applicant)

Effective May 26, 2026, the Registered Spectacle Lens Dispenser and Registered Contact Lens Dispenser applications of Joseph Daniel Lopez (SLD and CLD Applicant) were denied. The basis for the denial was a Criminal Conviction, and Acts Warranting Denial of Licensure (BPC §§475(a)(2) in conjunction with CCR title 16 §1399.270(a), 475(a)(4), 480(a)(1), 2555.5(k), 2559.2(b), and 2561). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action.](#)

PROBATION

Salamone, Oscar (OPT 11812)—La Mirada

Effective February 9, 2026, the license of Oscar Salamone (OPT 11812), was revoked, the revocation stayed, and placed on probation for three years, for a criminal conviction of Driving Under the Influence and Dangerous Use of Alcohol (BPC §§ 490, 3110(k) in conjunction with CCR § 1517, and BPC § 3110(l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the doctor's profile.](#)

REVOKED

Diaz Baez, Miguel Angel (CLD 8078)—San Bernardino

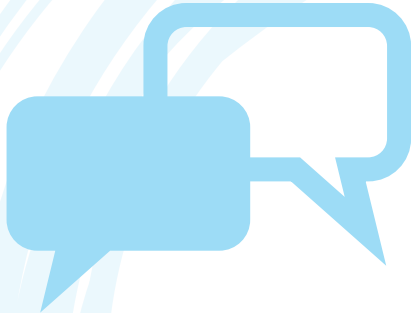
Effective March 12, 2026, the registration of Miguel Angel Diaz Baez (CLD 8078) was revoked for a Criminal Conviction, Disregard Safety: Evading Police (BPC §§ 490, 2551.1, and 2555.5(k) in conjunction with CCR § 1399.270). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the registrant's profile.](#)

For a summary of the disciplinary action, please contact the Board at (916) 575-7170.



Ask an Analyst is Here! Do You Have a General Question?

Submit your questions to optometry@dca.ca.gov and look for the answer in the next edition of *The Spectacle!* Be sure to include *The Spectacle* in the subject line.



How Are We Doing?

The California State Board of Optometry strives to provide the best possible customer service. Please help us by taking a few minutes to complete our brief [customer service satisfaction survey](#). Your participation is greatly appreciated.



PDE_26-147



2450 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 575-7170

www.optometry.ca.gov

Board Members

Jeffrey Garcia, O.D.,
President

Eunie Linden, J.D.,
Vice President

Stacy Bragg, O.D.,
Secretary

Alex Clemens
Martin Dawson, SLD/CLD
Paul Hsu
Robert Klepa, J.D.
Andrew Moreno, J.D.
Joseph Pruitt, O.D.
Lillian Wang, O.D.
Taylor Tedder, O.D.

Gregory Pruden,
Executive Officer

2026 Board and Committee Meeting Dates

Each year, the Board meets at least four times. The Board's various committees also meet throughout the year. The Board adopted the following 2026 meeting calendar, which is subject to change:

- July 10
- October 23

The 2026 committee meeting dates are:

- May 1
- August 7
- November 13

Meeting agendas are posted at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, per the Administrative Procedures Act. Please visit the **Board Meeting Page** to review agendas and meeting materials.