

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.

SUMMER IS HERE!

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of *The Spectacle*! This issue highlights Board updates, regulatory news, seasonal eye health guidance, and opportunities for professional engagement. In this issue, you will find the following updates:

- Welcome Message from the Board President
- Committee Updates and New Assignments
- **A Day in the Life of an Optometrist –**
Featuring Member Stacy Bragg, OD & Jeong-Ah Jennifer Kim, OD
- UV Eye Safety and Summer Vision Health
- Summer Travel and Contact Lens Safety
- Summer Resource Center
- **Eye Know This! –** Test your Vision Knowledge
- **Who's New at the Board:** Christopher Romeo
- Subject Matter Expert Opportunities
- 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!



Message from the Board President



At the July 2026 Board meeting, the California State Board of Optometry elected its officers for the coming fiscal year, as required by Business and Professions Code § 3014. The Board is pleased to announce the re-election of **Dr. Jeffrey Garcia, O.D.**, as president, **Eunie Linden, J.D.**, as vice president, and **Dr. Stacy Bragg, O.D.**, as secretary.

Following his re-election, Board President Garcia shared the following message with licensees and stakeholders:

"I am honored to continue serving as board president and grateful for the trust placed in me by my fellow board members. As we move into the new term, our commitment to protecting the health and safety of California consumers remains unwavering. The Board will continue advancing the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, with a focus on modernization, outreach, and strengthening consumer protection. I look forward to working collaboratively with our licensees, partners, and communities as we support the future of optometry in California."

As the summer months continue, the Board encourages licensees and stakeholders to stay engaged, participate in Board initiatives, and help shape the future of optometry in our state.

Summer Travel and Contact Lens Safety

Summer travel often brings changes in routine, climate, and daily activities that can impact contact lens wearers. Whether traveling by airplane, spending time at the beach, or enjoying outdoor recreation, proper lens care remains essential to maintaining healthy eyes and preventing irritation or infection.

Exposure to dry air during flights, hot weather, smoke, wind, and increased time outdoors may contribute to dry eye symptoms and lens discomfort. Contact lens wearers should stay hydrated, use lubricating eye drops as recommended by their eye care provider, and avoid over-wearing lenses during long travel days.

Water exposure is another common summer risk. Contact lenses should never be worn while swimming, in hot tubs, or when participating in water activities. Harmful bacteria and microorganisms in water can become trapped beneath the lens and increase the risk of serious eye infections.

Travelers are also encouraged to pack extra lenses, backup glasses, and contact lens solution when away from home. Proper hand hygiene and regular replacement schedules should continue even while traveling.

TRAVEL TIPS FOR CONTACT LENS WEARERS

- Avoid swimming or showering while wearing contact lenses.
- Wash and dry hands before handling lenses.
- Bring extra lenses, glasses, and travel-size solution.
- Stay hydrated during flights and outdoor activities.
- Replace lenses as directed by your eye care provider.

A little preparation can help keep eyes healthy and comfortable throughout the summer travel season.



Committee Updates and New Assignments

With the election of new board officers, the Board reviewed its committee and workgroup composition to ensure alignment with upcoming priorities. Several updates were discussed at the July 2026 meeting, resulting in new assignments to support the Board's work for the coming term.

Children's Vision Workgroup

Chair: Pau Hsu

Members: Martin Dawson, CLD/SLD (new appointment)

Consumer Protection, Public Relations, and Outreach Committee

Chair: Alex Clemens, J.D.

Members: Stacy Bragg, O.D.; Joe Pruitt, O.D.; Eunie Linden, J.D. (new appointment)

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Chair: Taylor Tedder, O.D. (new appointment)

Members: Martin Dawson, CLD/SLD; Paul Hsu; Eunie Linden, J.D.; Jeffrey Garcia, O.D.;

NBEO/ARBO Workgroup

Chair: Lillian Wang, O.D.

Member: Andrew Moreno, J.D. (new appointment)

Optometry and Optician Practice Act Workgroup

Chair: Martin Dawson, CLD/SLD

Member: Joe Pruitt, O.D.

Practice and Education Committee

Chair: Lillian Wang, O.D.

Members: Stacy Bragg, O.D.; Joe Pruitt, O.D.; Taylor Tedder, O.D. (new appointment)

Telehealth Workgroup

Chair: Stacy Bragg, O.D.

Members: Joe Pruitt, O.D. (new appointment)



Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC) Appointments

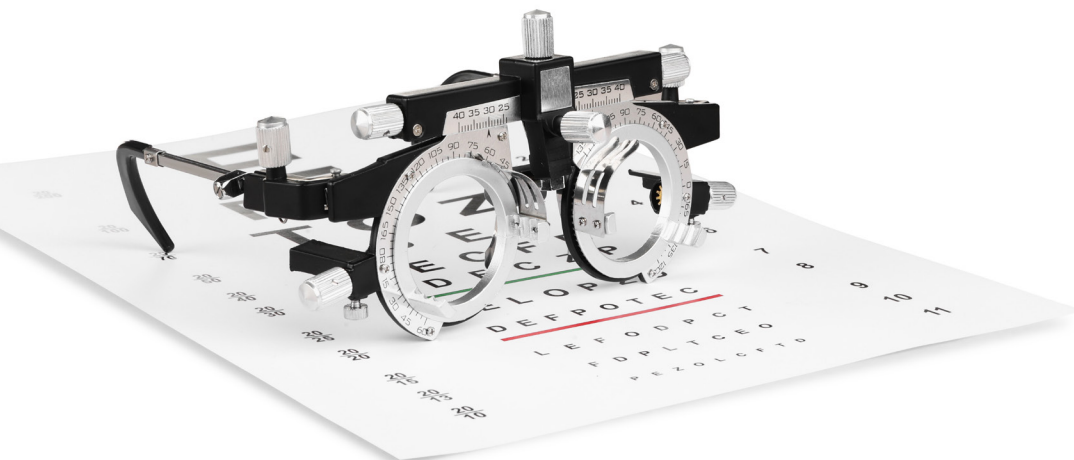
Senate Bill 776 (Ashby, Chapter 788, Statutes of 2026) revised the structure of the Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC). Appointment authority was transferred to the Board, establishing a newly constituted DOC, which serves as the Board's advisory body on dispensing opticianry matters. Following a recruitment period that ended June 1, 2026, the DOC workgroup interviewed candidates and recommended the following appointments:

Appointed Members:

Chair: Martin Dawson, CLD, SLD – one year term (expires June 1, 2027)

Members: Dr. Michelle Hoff, O.D., SLD – three year term (expires June 1, 2029); Leyvi Barron, SLD – two year term (expires June 1, 2028)

At the July 10, 2026, public board meeting, the Board formally appointed the membership of the DOC. This updated committee structure strengthens Board oversight of dispensing opticianry and supports consistency across practice standards statewide.



A Day in the Life of an Optometrist

Optometrists play an important role in protecting and improving the vision health of Californians through patient care, education, innovation, and community outreach. In this issue of *The Spectacle*, the Board highlights two optometrists who share insights into their professional journeys, experiences serving patients, and perspectives on the evolving field of eye care.



SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD MEMBER STACY BRAGG, O.D.

Dr. Bragg was appointed to the Board by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2023 and reappointed in 2026. She currently serves as an optometrist at Regency Eye Care Inc. and the director of quality assurance at FirstSight Vision Services Inc.

Her experience includes private practice, corporate-affiliated optometry management, and telehealth services spanning nearly two decades.

Dr. Bragg earned her Doctor of Optometry with honors from Pacific University College of Optometry and a bachelor of science degree in biology from Mercer University. We asked Dr. Bragg to share more about her career, her passion for optometry, and what a typical day in practice looks like.

1. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN OPTOMETRY?

When I was in sixth grade, my optometrist, Dr. Randy Fuerst, first planted the idea of becoming an O.D. in my mind. I always looked forward to my annual eye exam because he made it fun. Later, during college, I shadowed him for a few days. One patient let me look at her eyes through the slit lamp, and from that moment on, I was fascinated by the eye.

2. WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE OFFICE EACH DAY?

After putting my lunch in the refrigerator, I review the day's schedule. For returning patients, I also look over their previous visits to refresh my memory about their eye health and any related medical conditions.

3. WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY IN PRACTICE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

A typical day includes comprehensive eye exams, contact lens fittings, follow-up visits, and some medical eye care appointments. At least once a week, I also see a newly diagnosed diabetic patient for a first eye exam, which often includes education about how blood sugar control affects eye health.

4. HOW DO YOU STAY CURRENT WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENTS IN EYE CARE?

In addition to completing 50 hours of continuing education every two years, I stay current by subscribing to optometry and ophthalmology newsletters and e-blasts. I also attend industry events to see the latest diagnostic and treatment technology in person. Serving on the Practice Education Committee also helps me stay informed, because we review continuing education course approval submissions.

5. HOW HAS TELEHEALTH INFLUENCED PATIENT CARE AND ACCESSIBILITY IN OPTOMETRY?

Telehealth has helped optometry meet patients where they are. It can be difficult to staff an office with a doctor for extended hours, especially in rural areas where recruiting providers may be harder. Many patients also cannot easily take time off work for appointments during traditional office hours. As technology improves, remote care is becoming an increasingly effective way to expand access and support patient care.

6. WHAT IS ONE EYE HEALTH HABIT YOU WISH MORE PATIENTS WOULD PRACTICE CONSISTENTLY?

Wearing sunglasses regularly to protect the eyes from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) light.

7. WHAT KEEPS YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT THE PROFESSION AFTER MANY YEARS OF PRACTICE?

What keeps me passionate is the continued growth of technology and our understanding of the eye—and the body as a whole. It is exciting to practice at a time when we have better tools to help people live with low vision and even the possibility of restoring some vision loss.

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8. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE STUDENTS OR NEW GRADUATES ENTERING THE FIELD OF OPTOMETRY?

My best advice is to build a strong network of eye care professionals, from vision therapy specialists to retinal surgeons. No one can be an expert in every area of optometry, but trusted colleagues can help you connect patients with the right care when something falls outside your expertise.

9. FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN OPTOMETRIST?

My favorite part of being an optometrist is seeing a patient put on their first pair of glasses and experience the world more clearly. That smile never gets old.

10. IF YOU WEREN'T AN OPTOMETRIST, WHAT CAREER DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE PURSUED?

I probably would have pursued a career in wildlife photography.



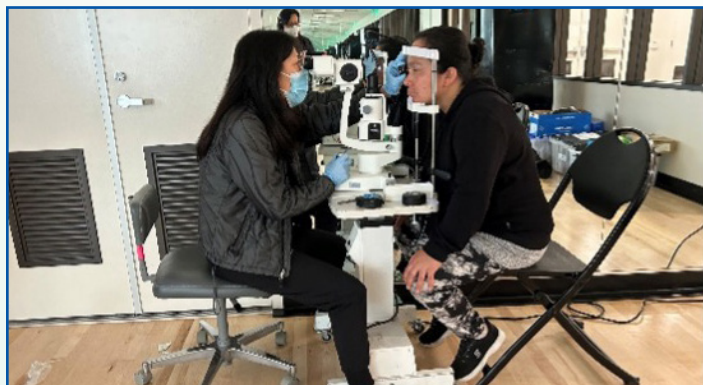
SPOTLIGHT ON JEONG-AH JENNIFER KIM, O.D.

Dr. Jeong-Ah Jennifer Kim is a licensed optometrist practicing with Kaiser Permanente in Southern California, where she primarily serves patients in the San Fernando Valley. She provides comprehensive eye care with a special interest in

low vision services, patient education, and community-centered care.

Dr. Kim immigrated to Los Angeles at a young age and later spent nearly a decade in Northern California completing her undergraduate education and optometry training. She earned her Doctor of Optometry from the UC Berkeley School of Optometry and completed a residency in optometry at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. She joined Kaiser Permanente in 2003 and has since built a career focused on compassionate, patient-centered eye care and long-term patient relationships.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Kim has participated in medical mission outreach efforts in countries including Nepal, Myanmar, East Timor, Peru, Guatemala, and Kenya, while also volunteering locally in underserved communities throughout Los Angeles. These experiences have strengthened her appreciation for the importance of accessible eye care and the role optometrists play in supporting overall health and quality of life.



Dr. Kim enjoys the opportunity to build lasting connections with patients and values working alongside colleagues who share a commitment to service and education.

We asked Dr. Kim to share more about her professional journey, volunteer experiences, and what a typical day in optometric practice looks like.

1. YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MEDICAL MISSION WORK, BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND LOCALLY. HOW HAVE THOSE EXPERIENCES SHAPED THE WAY YOU APPROACH PATIENT CARE?

Those experiences have taught me compassion and not to take eye care for granted. It is humbling and gratifying that optometrists can have a profound impact on individuals, especially the underserved.

2. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE OPTOMETRY AS A CAREER?

I wanted to be in the medical field, and this was a good balance. One of my junior high school friends said I wanted to be an optometrist back then, but I don't remember that! :)

3. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BUILDING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS WITH PATIENTS AND FAMILIES?

I love seeing kids grow from elementary school age to applying for college, medical school and pursuing their futures. I appreciate how patients and I can pick up from where we left off from the year before, catching up with each other and sometimes, crying together through various seasons of life. I value knowing them and their needs, and also being known by them.

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4. WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU PRACTICING AT KAISER PERMANENTE?

Oftentimes, once we start work in the morning, it's nonstop until lunch and then the same until end time. We have a mix of regular exams, various follow ups for conditions like glaucoma, and dilations. It's a FULL day!

5. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHANGES YOU'VE SEEN IN OPTOMETRY OVER THE YEARS?

The technology! Now AI! Technology has helped us to be more medically focused, which is great! As someone who graduated when OCT was just coming out, I've had to learn on my own, learn from colleagues and rely on continuing education. It has been rewarding! Let's see how we incorporate AI to advance our profession even more.

6. WHAT IS ONE MISCONCEPTION PEOPLE OFTEN HAVE ABOUT EYE EXAMS OR EYE HEALTH?

People often think that if their vision is clear, they don't need to see an eye doctor. But eye health is vision and more. Optometry is the eye version of primary care in medicine so it's important to have regular eye exams.

7. HOW DO YOU HELP PATIENTS FEEL COMFORTABLE AND INFORMED DURING AN EYE EXAM?

I try to understand what the patients' issues are, inform them of the procedures I'm doing, and explain the findings at the end of the exam. A great tool is to use images on the computer to educate patients.



8. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE STUDENTS CONSIDERING A FUTURE CAREER IN OPTOMETRY?

Optometry has changed a lot and will continue to change. Be open to always learning and don't get comfortable.

9. WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING MOMENT OF YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

Internationally: when the eye clinic has the longest line and is last to end among other medical clinics.

Domestically (ie everyday clinic): when patients appreciate the care they've received. Informing me that their child reaches for his or her glasses first thing in the morning. Or returning patients expressing thanks for catching a condition (even when it's a straightforward one!).

10. WHAT DO YOU HOPE PATIENTS REMEMBER MOST AFTER VISITING YOUR OFFICE?

I hope patients remember their care was personal and they leave with a connection with me and those they've interacted with throughout their visit.

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](#).





UV Eye Safety and Summer Vision Health

Summer brings increased time outdoors, travel, and recreational activities. But it also brings increased exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and seasonal eye health risks. The Board encourages consumers to take proactive steps to protect their vision during the summer months and reminds licensees of the important role eye care professionals play in educating patients on preventative eye health.

Excessive exposure to UV radiation from the sun may contribute to long-term eye conditions such as cataracts, macular degeneration, photokeratitis (“sunburn of the eye”), and certain eyelid cancers. Children may be particularly vulnerable, as they often spend more time outdoors and may not consistently wear proper eye protection.

Consumers should be encouraged to wear sunglasses that block 99% to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays, even on cloudy days. Wide-brimmed hats can provide additional protection. Individuals participating in outdoor sports or water activities should consider protective eyewear designed for those environments.

Summer activities may also increase the risk of eye irritation and infection. Chlorinated pools, ocean water, sunscreen, sand, smoke exposure, and dry heat can all contribute to discomfort or

inflammation. Contact lens wearers should avoid wearing lenses while swimming when possible and follow proper lens hygiene practices to reduce the risk of infection.

Licensees are encouraged to use routine examinations as an opportunity to discuss UV protection, contact lens safety, and preventative eye health with patients. Patient education remains an important part of promoting long-term ocular health and reducing preventable vision-related complications.

Summer Eye Safety Tips

- Wear sunglasses with 99% to 100% UVA/UVB protection.
- Use protective eyewear during outdoor sports and recreation.
- Avoid swimming while wearing contact lenses.
- Stay hydrated and use artificial tears if experiencing dry eyes.
- Schedule routine eye examinations to monitor overall eye health.

Whether spending the day at the beach, hiking outdoors, or enjoying time with family and friends, protecting your eyes should be part of every summer routine. A few simple preventative steps can help keep vision healthy long after the season ends.

Summer Resource Center

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors, travel, and recreational activities. But warmer weather and increased sun exposure can also create additional risks for eye health. Whether spending the day at the beach, traveling on vacation, or participating in outdoor sports, taking a few simple precautions can help protect your vision all season long.

EYE-OPENING SUMMER VISION FACTS

Did You Know?

- Your eyes can get sunburned. A condition called photokeratitis may occur after excessive UV exposure and can cause pain, redness, and temporary vision changes.
- Sand, water, and pavement can reflect UV rays, increasing exposure even while sitting under an umbrella.
- Children's eyes are more sensitive to UV radiation than adults, making sunglasses and hats especially important during outdoor activities.
- Contact lenses are not sunglasses. Unless specifically designed with UV protection, they do not fully shield your eyes from harmful rays.
- Dry eyes may become worse during summer due to heat, wind, smoke exposure, and air conditioning.

A little eye protection can go a long way toward keeping summer fun and vision healthy.

SUNGLASSES SHOPPING CHECKLIST

What to Look for Before You Buy

Not all sunglasses provide the same level of protection. When shopping for sunglasses, remember to check for:

- 99% to 100% UVA and UVB protection.
- Lenses large enough to fully cover the eyes.
- Wraparound styles for additional side protection.
- Polarized lenses for glare reduction during driving or water activities.
- Labels that clearly indicate UV protection.

Reminder: Darker lenses do not always mean better UV protection. Always check the label before purchasing.

SUMMER TRAVEL EYE CARE KIT

Don't Forget These Essentials

Heading out on vacation? Consider packing:

- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Artificial tears
- Backup glasses
- Extra contact lenses
- Travel-size contact lens solution
- Protective eyewear for outdoor activities

A small travel kit can help prevent eye irritation and keep vision comfortable during summer trips.

POOL & BEACH EYE SAFETY

Quick Tips for Summer Fun

- Wear swim goggles during water activities.
- Avoid opening your eyes underwater while wearing contact lenses.
- Rinse eyes with clean water after swimming.
- Keep sand, sunscreen, and smoke away from the eyes whenever possible.
- Use artificial tears if eyes become dry or irritated.

Even a day at the beach can expose your eyes to UV rays, bacteria, and environmental irritants. A few simple precautions can help prevent discomfort and eye infections.

DIGITAL EYE STRAIN DOESN'T TAKE A SUMMER BREAK

Screen Time Tips for Healthy Vision

Summer often means more travel, downtime, and increased use of phones, tablets, and laptops. Extended screen time may contribute to digital eye strain and dry eye symptoms.

Try the "20-20-20" rule:

Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.

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Additional tips:

- Blink frequently while using digital devices.
- Adjust screen brightness to a comfortable level.
- Take regular breaks during long screen sessions.

DRIVING AND VISION SAFETY

Don't Overlook Summer Road Trip Eye Safety

Bright sunlight and glare can make driving more difficult during summer months.

Tips for safer driving:

- Wear polarized sunglasses to reduce glare.
- Keep windshields clean inside and out.
- Avoid driving with scratched or damaged lenses.
- Schedule an eye exam if experiencing difficulty with night driving or glare sensitivity.

Clear vision plays an important role in keeping summer travel safe.

SIGNS IT'S TIME TO SCHEDULE AN EYE EXAM

Don't Ignore These Symptoms

Contact your eye care provider if you experience:

- Frequent headaches
- Blurry vision
- Increased light sensitivity
- Eye pain or redness
- Difficulty seeing at night
- Persistent dry eye symptoms

Routine eye examinations help detect problems early, even before symptoms begin.

HEALTHY EYES MAKE FOR A BETTER SUMMER

Summer should be about enjoying time with family and friends, not dealing with preventable eye injuries or vision problems. Taking simple steps to protect your eyes can help keep your vision healthy long after the season ends.

Eye Know This! – Your Summer Vision Quiz

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH SUMMER EYE SAFETY FACTS AND TRIVIA

See how many you can get correct before checking the answers below!

1. Myth or Fact: You only need sunglasses on sunny days.

☐ Myth ☐ Fact

2. Multiple Choice: Which part of the eye controls how much light enters the eye?

- A. Retina B. Cornea
C. Iris D. Optic nerve

3. Multiple Choice: How often should most contact lens cases be replaced?

- A. Monthly B. Every 3 months
C. Every 6 months D. Yearly

4. True or False: Children's eyes are more sensitive to UV rays than adults' eyes.

☐ True ☐ False

5. True or False: Contact lenses with UV protection eliminate the need for sunglasses.

☐ True ☐ False

Answer Key

- 1. Myth** – UV rays can penetrate clouds.
- 2. C. Iris** – The iris adjusts pupil size to control light entering the eye.
- 3. B. Every 3 months** – Replace contact lens cases regularly to reduce bacteria buildup.
- 4. True** – Children's eyes are more vulnerable to UV damage.
- 5. False** – UV blocking contact lenses help, but sunglasses remain essential.



Summer Eye Tip: Wear sunglasses that block 99% to 100% of UVA and UVB rays, even on cloudy days, and never swim while wearing contact lenses.

Who's New at the Board: New Office Technician



We're excited to welcome Christopher Romeo to the CSBO office! Christopher brings a versatile background in customer service, administrative support, and hands on operations — experience he's gained through roles in client services, retail, warehouse coordination, and even leading workflow at S&K Steel.

He's worked in environments where staying organized, multitasking, and keeping things running smoothly are essential. Whether he was helping customers, managing records, training new staff, or supporting property management and DMV operations, Christopher built a reputation for being dependable, detail oriented, and always ready to help.

In his new role at CSBO, Christopher will support several important administrative functions. He'll help process continuing education course approval requests, assist consumers and licensees by answering questions and providing front desk support, and handle clerical tasks such as mail processing, tracking delinquent licenses, and updating licensing records. He'll also assist with Board and committee meeting preparation, draft correspondence, and help maintain the Board's records and data accuracy -- all crucial responsibilities that keep the Board's daily operations running smoothly.

He says he takes pride in clear communication, professionalism, and makes sure people get accurate, helpful information. These qualities fit perfectly with the Board's mission.

As he begins his position, we asked Christopher to share his insights:

What part of your professional journey are you most proud of?

I don't think it would be a single accomplishment, but more about how I've continued to grow and adapt. I started out working physically demanding jobs, where I learned the value of hard work, accountability, and even leading a team. As things progressed, I moved into a more professional role in customer and client services. Learning administrative duties and the ability to handle high volumes of work while strengthening my abilities in customer relations. Every role has taught me something valuable, and I continue to keep learning all I can to prepare myself for whatever comes next.

What's one thing you hope to learn or master in your first year with the Board?

I hope to learn everything I can about continued education and the different processes to help the consumers of California

If you could describe your work style in three words, what would they be?

Reliable, adaptable, and organized.

Looking ahead, what's one goal (big or small) that you'd like to accomplish in your first year at CSBO?

Learning the programs used here to the best of my ability.

What's one fun fact your new coworkers might be surprised to learn about you?

I love the game of golf and when I was younger all I dreamed of was becoming a PGA tour professional.

The Board welcomes Christopher. We're thrilled to have him on board, and we hope you'll join us in welcoming him to CSBO!



"Christopher brings a strong commitment to service and teamwork, and we're excited to welcome him to the Board. We look forward to the positive contributions he'll make as part of the CSBO team."

— Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer



Subject Matter Expert Opportunities

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OPTOMETRY: BECOME A SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

The Board relies on licensed optometrists to help ensure its licensing examinations reflect current, real world practice. These optometrists serve as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), volunteering their time and expertise to support the Board's examination and occupational analysis projects.

SMEs participate in a variety of activities, including item writing and review workshops, occupational analysis studies, examination development, and standard setting (passing score) workshops. Their contributions help ensure the Board's examinations remain fair, relevant, and aligned with the competencies needed for safe, entry level practice.

Serving as an SME is a rewarding way to give back to the profession. SMEs collaborate with colleagues from across California, gain insight into the examination development process,

and play a direct role in shaping the future of optometric licensure. Eligible participants may also receive continuing education credit, compensation for workshop participation, and reimbursement for approved travel expenses in accordance with state policies.

The Board welcomes California licensed optometrists who are actively practicing and in good standing. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner or recently licensed, your perspective is valuable.

Interested in becoming a subject matter expert? Visit the Board's website at www.optometry.ca.gov or contact the Board office at (916) 575-7170 to learn more about eligibility requirements and upcoming opportunities. Your expertise can help strengthen consumer protection and support the next generation of optometrists in California.



Scam Alert!

STAY VIGILANT AGAINST FRAUDULENT LICENSING COMMUNICATIONS

The Board continues to receive reports of increasingly sophisticated scams targeting California optometrists, opticians, applicants, and licensees. These fraudulent communications often appear legitimate and may reference BreEZe accounts, examination scheduling, fingerprinting, license renewals, disciplinary investigations, or required payments. Staying informed about common scam tactics can help protect your personal information, prevent financial loss, and avoid unnecessary stress.

Spot the Red Flags

Always verify before you click or respond.

- Urgent or threatening language demanding immediate action.
- Requests for passwords, social security numbers, banking information, or other sensitive personal information.
- Links that do not end in ca.gov.
- Payment requests made outside of official Board or BreEZe channels.
- Unexpected attachments or login prompts.
- Caller ID that appears to display a government agency or Board phone number (caller ID can be spoofed).

COMMON SCAM TACTICS

Impersonation of the Board or DCA

Scammers may pose as the CSBO, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), or BreEZe, claiming your license requires immediate action, verification, or payment.

Fraudulent License Investigation Calls

Some scammers claim to be board investigators or law enforcement officials, falsely stating that your license is under investigation, has been suspended, or is connected to criminal activity. They may pressure you to make an immediate payment or provide confidential information to “resolve” the matter.

Fake BreEZe Account Alerts

Messages may claim your BreEZe account has been locked or compromised and direct you to a fraudulent website designed to steal your username and password.

Fraudulent Exam or PSI Notices

Applicants may receive emails or messages pretending to be from PSI requesting additional payment or personal information to schedule, confirm, or reschedule an examination.

Fingerprinting and Background Check Scams

Scammers may offer to “expedite” Department of Justice (DOJ) background checks or fingerprint processing for an additional fee. DOJ background checks cannot be expedited through third-party vendors.

False Renewal or Fee Notices

Fake renewal reminders may request immediate payment, list incorrect fees, or direct licensees to unofficial websites that closely resemble legitimate government sites.

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Text Message Scams

Scammers may send text messages claiming immediate action is required regarding your license renewal, BreEZe account, or examination status. These messages often contain shortened or misleading links designed to steal login credentials or payment information.

How to Protect Yourself

- Access BreEZe only by typing www.breeze.ca.gov directly into your web browser.
- Avoid clicking suspicious links or downloading unexpected attachments.
- Be cautious of messages that create a sense of urgency or threaten disciplinary action.
- Never share your password or sensitive personal information by email, text message, or phone.
- Verify all payments through official Board or BreEZe channels.
- Independently verify unexpected communications by contacting the Board using publicly listed contact information—not the phone number or link provided in the message.
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your professional accounts whenever available.

When in Doubt

- Hang up and contact CSBO directly at (916) 575-7170 or optometry@dca.ca.gov.
- Refuse payment requests made by phone, text, or unofficial email.
- Record the caller's name, title, phone number, and email address, then independently verify the information before responding.
- End the communication immediately if it appears suspicious.

REMEMBER

If someone contacts you unexpectedly and pressures you to act immediately, pause and verify before responding.

CSBO and the DCA will never ask you to disclose your password, send payment through gift cards or cryptocurrency, or provide sensitive financial information through unsolicited emails, text messages, or phone calls.

"Think before you click" and always verify unexpected communications through official Board contact information.



Recent Administrative and Disciplinary Actions Taken by the Board

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

The Board provides information regarding administrative and disciplinary actions for immediate access and convenience of interested persons. 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

Appy, Marcus Henri (OPT 13846)—Arcata

On May 12, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Marcus Henri Appy (OPT 13846) 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\(external link\).](#)

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 in 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\(external link\).](#)

Bhambhani, Sundeep (OPT 13912)—Buena Park

On June 9, 2026, a \$1,500 citation was issued to Sundeep Bhambhani (OPT 13912) 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\(external link\).](#)

Chan, Stephanie Laura (OPT 11413)—Walnut Creek

On June 23, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Stephanie Laura Chan (OPT 11413) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal. (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

Chu, Joanna N. (OPT 11345)—Moreno Valley

On June 2, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Joanna N. Chu (OPT 11345) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal. (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\(external link\).](#)

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\(external link\).](#)

Dao, Trang Van (OPT 11049)—Anaheim

On June 25, 2026, a \$900 citation was issued to Trang Van Dao (OPT 11049) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in 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\(external link\).](#)

DeGraziano, Peter E. (OPT 14132)—San Diego

On June 23, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Peter E. DeGraziano (OPT 14132) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal. (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

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Dirksen, Robert B. (OPT 12172)—San Luis Obispo

On June 11, 2026, a \$1,450 citation was issued to Robert B. Dirksen (OPT 12172) 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) and (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

Feil, Fredrick (OPT 9579)—Chester

On April 21, 2026, a \$2,100 citation was issued to Fredrick Feil (OPT 9579) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in 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\(external link\).](#)

Go, Randall (OPT 7473)—San Francisco

On April 21, 2026, a \$1,600 citation was issued to Randall Go (OPT 7473) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in 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\(external link\).](#)

Goldman, Jessica Ruth (OPT 14116)—Sebastopol

On March 26, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Jessica Ruth Goldman (OPT 14116) 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) & (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

Hankins, Elizabeth M. (OPT 14714)—Laguna Niguel

On June 11, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Elizabeth M. Hankins (OPT 14714) 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)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

Hartley, Susan Mignano (OPT 7484)—Laguna Beach

On April 28, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Susan Mignano Hartley (OPT 7484) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal. (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

Hummelman, Lenore C. (OPT 10764)—Chula Vista

On March 10, 2026, a \$2,000 affirmed citation was issued to Lenore C. Hummelman (OPT 10764) for a criminal conviction (driving under the influence, dangerous use of alcohol) and giving a false statement on a license renewal application. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (j), (k), and (l)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's license profile\(external link\).](#)

Kanter, Tessah (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\(external link\).](#)

Love, Matthew Sean (OPT 15251)—Temecula

On July 8, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Matthew Sean Love (OPT 15251) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal. (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR § 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

McKnight, Diana Lynn (OPT 11307)—Elk Grove

On June 22, 2026, a \$2,500 citation was issued to Diana Lyn McKnight (OPT 14758) for failing to keep and maintain accurate patient records. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (q), and CCR § 1510). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's license profile\(external link\).](#)

Moffett, Stephen Joseph (OPT 11550)—Coronado

On July 8, 2026, a \$650 citation was issued to Stephen Joseph Moffett (OPT 11550) 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\(external link\).](#)

Oto, Candace Naomi Namba (OPT 14133)—Roseville

On April 30, 2026, a modified \$500 citation was issued to Candace Naomi Namba Oto (OPT 114133) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in her license renewal the requirements were met. (BPC §§ 3110, (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\(external link\).](#)

Ruiz, Morgan Alyssa Lucie (OPT 14758)—Ventura

On May 18, 2026, a \$1,500 citation was issued to Morgan Alyssa Lucie Ruiz (OPT 14758) 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\(external link\).](#)

Soares, Trajan Joaquin (OPT 9569)—Los Banos

On March 26, 2026, a \$1,300 citation was issued to Trajan Joaquin Soares (OPT 9569) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in his 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\(external link\).](#)

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Specialty Vision LLC dba EZContacts.com (NOLD 38)—Brooklyn, NY

On June 15, 2026, a \$5,000 citation was issued to Specialty Vision LLC dba EZContacts.com (NOLD 38), for failure to maintain a current 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), and CCR §1399.278). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action and view the registrants NOLD profile\(external link\).](#)

Tayman, Adam (OPT 33831)—Oceanside

On April 28, 2026, a \$900 citation was issued to Adam Tayman (OPT 33831) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in his 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\(external link\).](#)

Velasquez, Rowena A. (OPT 10434)—Brentwood

On April 28, 2026, a \$1,700 citation was issued to Rowena A. Velasquez (OPT 10434) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle and certifying in 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\(external link\).](#)

Vetrone, Aubrey LeighAnn (OPT 34691)—Sacramento

On June 22, 2026, a \$1,500 citation was issued to Aubrey LeighAnn Vetrone (OPT 34691) for failing to keep and maintain accurate patient records. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (q), and CCR § 1510). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's license profile\(external link\).](#)

Wong, Iris Gar Shun (OPT 15259)—San Marcos

On April 21, 2026, a \$1,050 citation was issued to Iris Gar Shun Wong (OPT 15259) for failing to meet the continuing optometric education (CE) requirements within the 2022–2024 renewal cycle. (BPC §§ 3110(a), 3059(e), and CCR sect; 1536(b)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or to view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

PENDING ACCUSATIONS

Schoenberg, Robert Leslie (OPT 7050)—Pomona

On June 26, 2026, an accusation was filed against the license of Robert Leslie Schoenberg (OPT 7050) and Garey Vision Center Optometry (FNP 2382) for gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and general unprofessional conduct. (BPC §§ 3110(a), (b), and (c), (y)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)

Hernandez, William Geovany (SLD 42910)—Moreno Valley

On July 31, 2026, an accusation was filed against the registration of William Geovany Hernandez (SLD 42910), for a criminal conviction of driving under the influence, and dangerous use of alcohol (BPC §§ 490, 2555.5(a), 2555.5(k), 2555.5(l) and CCR § 1399.270). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the registrant's profile\(external link\).](#)

SURRENDERED

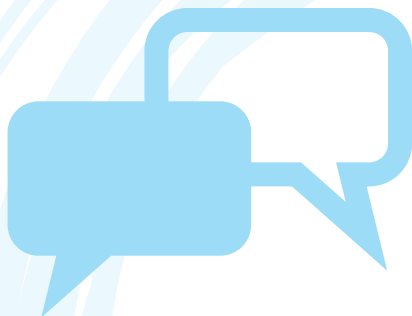
Zoeckler, Brandon Thomas (OPT 14486)—Beaumont

Effective May 26, 2026, Brandon Thomas Zoeckler's license (OPT 14486) was voluntarily surrendered (BPC 3110(a), (m)(1), and (d)). [Click here to obtain a copy of the action or view the doctor's profile\(external link\).](#)



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2026 Board Members and Committee Meeting Dates

Each year, the Board meets at least four times. The Board's various committees also meet throughout the year. Please visit the board meeting page at **www.optometry.ca.gov/meetings/index.shtml** to review meeting dates, agendas, and meeting materials. Meeting agendas are posted at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, according to the Administrative Procedures Act.

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