



# Florida Bar Board Certification

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

**FloridaBar.org/certification**

Florida Board Certified Lawyers are -  
*Evaluated for Professionalism and Tested for Expertise*

## Board Certification for Lawyers: What Does It Mean?

For more information call (850) 561-5842 or visit [FloridaBar.org/certification](http://FloridaBar.org/certification)

### *Evaluated for Professionalism and Tested for Expertise*

Board certification recognizes attorneys' **special knowledge, skills and proficiency** in various areas of law and **professionalism and ethics** in practice.

Established in 1982 by the Florida Supreme Court, board certification **helps consumers identify specialists** in various areas of law.

Board certified Florida Bar members are allowed to identify themselves as "**Board Certified**," or to use the letters "**B.C.S.**" for Board Certified Specialist on business cards or letterhead, in legal directories or in advertising. Certification is The Florida Bar's **highest level of evaluation of the competency and experience of attorneys in the 27 areas of law approved for certification by the Supreme Court of Florida.**

Board certified lawyers are **Evaluated for Professionalism, Tested for Expertise.**

### **7 percent of eligible Florida Bar members, approximately 5,000 lawyers, are board certified.**

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meets the standards prescribed by the state's Supreme Court may become board certified in one or more of the 27 certification fields. Each area of certification may contain higher or additional standards.

### **Minimum Requirements for Certification**

- Practice law for a minimum of five years.
- Demonstrate substantial involvement in the field of law for which certification is sought.
- Pass satisfactory peer review of competence in the specialty field as well as character, ethics and professionalism in the practice of law.
- Satisfy the certification area's continuing legal education requirements.
- Receive a passing grade on the examination required of all applicants or meet strict criteria to exempt the exam.

*"The number of applications for certification and re-certification remain steady. I believe this is a recognition of the value of Board Certification by lawyers and the public alike as the best objective source of identifying lawyers who have special skills and knowledge in their practice areas, and who are ethical and professional."*

*A lawyer who merely claims expertise in an advertisement has not subjected herself to peer review, an exam, or an evaluation of ethics and professionalism. There are now more than 5,000 Board Certified lawyers in The Florida Bar, and the Certification Program is the largest in the country."*

**2017-2018 Board of Legal Specialization & Education  
Chair, Steve Rubin**

Board certification is valid for five years, during which time the attorney must continue to practice law and attend Florida Bar-approved continuing legal education courses.

To be recertified, lawyers must meet requirements similar to those for initial certification. **Not all qualified lawyers are certified, but those who are board certified have taken extra steps to have their competence and experience evaluated.**

