



# Florida Bar Board Certification

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

[FloridaBar.org/certification](http://FloridaBar.org/certification)

Florida Board Certified Lawyers on [LinkedIn](#)  
*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.

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

Certification is The Florida Bar's **highest level of evaluation** of the competency and experience of attorneys in the 26 areas of law approved for certification by the Supreme Court of Florida.

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.

### **7 percent of eligible Florida Bar members, approximately 4,800 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 25 certification fields. **Minimum requirements for certification** are listed below; each area of certification may contain higher or additional standards.

- 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.

*"Lawyers strive for excellence in every endeavor. Board certification is the natural progression of this innate desire, as it is the only way that they can say they are 'evaluated for professionalism and tested for expertise.' This highest of achievements not only benefits the individual lawyer, but by encouraging lawyers to hone their skills and practice with professionalism, the certification program is a great service to The Florida Bar and the public."*

~ 2015-2016 Board of Legal Specialization  
& Education Chair  
Cynthia Johnson-Stacks

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.**

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