



# Florida Bar Board Certification

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

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

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

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 24 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 the only Florida attorneys allowed to identify themselves as "**Board Certified,**" "**Specialist,**" "**Expert**" 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 4,600 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 24 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.

*"Board certification is one of the **highest recognitions** a lawyer in Florida can receive. The very difficult testing and extensive background peer review to confirm professional conduct is such a high standard that just seven percent of our eligible membership has achieved this level of recognition. All board certified attorneys should be extremely proud of their accomplishment."*

~ Florida Bar President Gregory Coleman

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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