

2015 Board Certification Application Filing Period Now Open

As Chair of the ILS, one of my **Top 10 Objectives for 2014-2015** is to continue encouraging our members to become Board Certified in International Law. To be considered, the International Law Board Certification Application Filing Period ends August 31, 2014, so please review and complete the application now. Call me or the other approximately 40 International Law Board Certified attorneys with questions.



Applications are currently being accepted for the 2015 board certification examinations. Access the applications, rules, policies, exam dates and specifications and other information online at www.floridabar.org/certification

Why Become Certified?

- Board certification establishes an independent measure of competence, professionalism and peer acknowledgment, and helps clients and fellow lawyers set expectations for professional abilities.
- Board certification serves both prospective clients and counsel seeking to refer legal matters to an expert. Board certification can therefore help lawyers grow their practices with matters in which they can best utilize their expertise. The Florida Bar supports this valuable service by providing a direct URL to its directory of board certified lawyers: FloridaBar.org/certification.
- Board certification provides an objective measure that a corporate executive, hiring partner, government official or other leader may justifiably rely upon when selecting a lawyer and explaining the choice to stockholders, clients, citizens or others to whom the leader is accountable.
- Board certification enhances the stature of a law firm or office, as tangibly demonstrated by lower malpractice insurance rates for certified lawyers. Florida Lawyers' Mutual Insurance Company offers a 10% premium reduction for board certification.

Be among the only Florida lawyers known as experts and specialists. Board certification recognizes attorneys' special knowledge, skills and proficiency in various

areas of law, and professionalism and ethics in practice. Board certified attorneys are the only Florida lawyers allowed to identify themselves as “specialists” or “experts” or to use "B.C.S." to indicate Board Certified Specialist.

Applicants for board certification must:

- 1) have been engaged in the practice of law for at least five years immediately preceding the date of application;
- 2) demonstrate substantial involvement in the area of law;
- 3) demonstrate broad, substantial, practical experience in the area of law pursuant to the area's standards;
- 4) undergo confidential peer review by attorneys and judges;
- 5) complete a specified number of approved continuing legal education hours pertaining to the area of law pursuant to the area's standards; and
- 6) pass an examination.

For more information, please visit www.floridabar.org/certification or contact the Legal Specialization and Education Department at [\(850\) 561-5842](tel:8505615842).

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