



The Florida Bar
Legal Specialization & Education Department
651 E. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300
800/342-8060 850/561-5842

Board Certification for Lawyers: Florida's 22 Legal Specialty Areas

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meets the standards prescribed by the Florida Supreme Court may become board certified in one or more of the 22 certification fields. More than 4,3000 Florida lawyers are board certified. Minimum requirements for certification are listed below; each area of certification may require higher or additional standards.

- A minimum of five years in law practice
 - A satisfactory showing of substantial involvement in the field of law for which certification is sought
 - A passing grade on the examination required of all applicants
 - Satisfactory peer review assessment of competence in the specialty field as well as character, ethics and professionalism in the practice of law
 - Satisfaction of the certification area's continuing legal education requirements
-

(Detailed descriptions of each specialty area of practice are available at FloridaBar.org/certification.)

1. **Admiralty and Maritime Law** is the practice of law dealing with the rules, concepts, and legal practices governing vessels, the shipping industry, the carrying of goods and passengers by water and related maritime concepts.
2. **Antitrust Law** is the field of law that deals with anticompetitive conduct or structure that may restrain trade or commerce.
3. **Appellate Practice** deals with recognition and preservation of error committed by lower tribunals, and the presentation of argument concerning the presence or absence of such error to state or federal appellate courts.
4. **Aviation Law** addresses all facets of the law dealing with the ownership, operation, maintenance and use of aircraft, airports and airspace.
5. **Business Litigation.** Certified lawyers in business litigation help solve problems arising from business relationships, including resolving disputes.
6. **City, County and Local Government Law** deals with legal issues of county, municipal or other local governments such as special districts, agencies and authorities.
7. **Civil Trial** is the field of law that addresses litigation of civil controversies in all areas of substantive law before state and federal courts, administrative agencies and arbitrators.
8. **Construction Law.** Lawyers certified in construction law deal with matters and disputes relating to the design and construction of improvements on private and public projects.
9. **Criminal Appellate** certified lawyers meet the same requirements as lawyers certified in criminal trial law and in addition must have handled 25 criminal appeals.



- 10. Criminal Trial.** Certified lawyers in criminal trial law are involved in investigation, evaluation, pleading, discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, and argument of jury and nonjury cases.
- 11. Elder Law** addresses legal issues involving health and personal care planning including advance directives; lifetime planning; capacity, guardianship; power of attorney; financial planning; resident rights in long-term care facilities and income, estate, and gift tax matters.
- 12. Health Law** addresses legal issues involving federal, state, or local law, rules and regulations, health care provider issues and legal issues regarding the delivery of health care services.
- 13. Immigration and Nationality** certified lawyers represent clients before federal and state agencies and U.S. district courts/courts of appeal on issues such as immigration benefits, discretionary relief, deportation, bond proceedings, visa and other applications and petitions.
- 14. Intellectual Property** lawyers practice primarily in the areas of patent application prosecution, patent infringement litigation, trademark law and copyright law.
- 15. International Law** focuses on issues, problems, or disputes arising from relations between or among states and international organizations as well as the relations between or among nationals of different countries, or between a state and a national of another state.
- 16. Labor and Employment Law** certified lawyers advise and represent clients on matters concerning the application and interpretation of public and private sector labor and employment law principles, employment discrimination and employment-related civil rights law.
- 17. Marital and Family Law.** Certified lawyers in marital and family law handle legal problems arising from the family relationship of husband and wife and parent and child, including litigation of civil controversies arising from those relationships.
- 18. Real Estate Law** relates to real property transactions including but not limited to real estate conveyances, title searches, property transfers, leases, condominiums and cooperatives, interval ownership, mortgages, zoning and land use planning, real estate development and financing, real estate litigation, and determination of property rights.
- 19. State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice** lawyers deal with rulemaking or adjudication associated with state or federal government entity actions such as contracts, licenses, orders, permits, policies or rules. The practice also includes appearing before or presiding as applicable legal entities for disputes involving administrative or government actions.
- 20. Tax Law.** Certified tax law attorneys deal with legal issues pertaining to federal, state or local income, estate, gift, ad valorem, excise or other taxes.
- 21. Wills, Trusts and Estates** lawyers handle all aspects of the analysis and planning for the conservation and disposition of estates, including tax related matters and probate litigation.
- 22. Workers' Compensation** is the practice of law involving the analysis and litigation of problems or controversies arising out of the Florida Workers' Compensation Law.