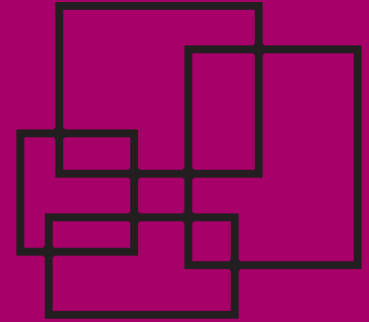


CERTIFICATION LINK

Your ABA Specialization Connection



Winter 2007



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2007 Roundtable on Lawyer Certification

The 2007 Roundtable will feature speakers from across the United States all gathering in the rolling hills of California's famous wine country, Napa Valley.

The event begins with an informal gathering on Thursday evening as a way for everyone to say hello to old friends and introduce themselves to new ones.

The following morning, the Standing Committee on Specialization and Association of Legal Certification Plan Executives and Administrators Workshops will be held concurrently, from 8:30 - 12 pm.

At 12:15, help kick off the annual event with the Roundtable Kickoff Luncheon, where you will hear general updates from Committee Chairman Mickey Sheinfeld and Tori Jo Wible, Committee Counsel.

The rest of the afternoon will be filled with excellent programming, beginning with an interactive discussion on *Current Developments, Advertising, Marketing and Beyond the Super Lawyer*. You can expect to hear topics covering recent ethics opinions on Super Lawyer listings, legal advertising, how to keep certification "special" and more. From there, you move into a session titled *How the Standing Committee Works* and find out what goes on

behind the scenes as past and current Standing Committee Members tell all!

Friday evening, a Wine Train Murder Mystery event has been planned which will include a ride through the beautiful Napa Wine Country, while dining in a 1915 Pullman train car.



That's not all, it's your job to solve the on-board murder case that will be happening right under your nose! Based on a first come first serve basis, this event, Co-hosted by the California Board of Legal Specialization, has sold out!

On Saturday, the popular Certification Players will take center stage as they inform and entertain with role-playing exercises. The case study topics are top secret this year, but in the past, they have included renewing certifications where allegations of ethics violations have been made, appeal from denial of certification or recertification, and more!

The Roundtable will conclude with detailed looked at Micro-Specialties with speakers from those who have already entered the arena. Topics will include, Federal Indian Law, Immigration, and DUI defense.

We're looking forward to seeing you all -- details about next year's location coming soon!



Photos provided by the Silverado Resort

In the News

NC State Bar Accepting Nominations

The Howard L. Gum Service Award - Nominations for the award are accepted from State Bar Committee Members and will be given to a specialty committee member who consistently excels in completing committee tasks.

The Sara M. Davis Excellence Award is presented to the certified specialist who exemplifies excellence in his or her daily work as an attorney and serves as a model for other lawyers. Nominations for this award are accepted from NC certified specialist. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.nclawspecialists.gov

The James E. Cross, Jr. Leadership Award is presented to a certified specialist who has taken an active leadership role in his or her practice area, through presentations at CLE seminars, scholarly writings, participation in groundbreaking cases or service of an established professional organization. Nominations for this award are accepted from members of the NCSB who have worked closely with the nominees. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.nclawspecialists.gov

Awards are presented at the Annual Luncheon for Certified Specialist. This year, the luncheon will be held on March 23, 2007 in Winston-Salem, on the campus of the Wake Forest University School of Law.

TBLS Online Directory of Board Certified Attorneys Now Lists Law Firm Website Link

The State Bar of Texas offers Texas attorneys the opportunity to list a law firm link on Attorney Profiles for an annual fee of \$35.00. TBLS has negotiated an agreement with the State Bar of Texas by which a certified attorney who lists a law firm link on his or her Attorney Profile will also have that link listed in the TBLS Directory of Board Certified Attorneys at no additional charge. If you are interested in obtaining a link, go to www.texasbar.com, click on My Bar Page, Update My Profile, and then My Directory Options. You can purchase a link through the State Bar at any time during the year. Please note that all website listings must comply with the applicable provisions of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail tbls@texasbar.com or call 1-800-204-2222, ext. 1454.



A Look at the 2006 Applicant Pool from North Carolina

According to the survey in NC State Bar's Newsletter, *The Specialist*, 2006 proved to be a banner year for North Carolina's specialization program, due in part to the launching of a new specialty area, social security disability law, and in part to continually high number of applications in family law and worker's compensation. Social Security made up 37% of all applications this year.

The survey shows that in recent years, there has been a fairly even distribution of applicants by the category of "years of experience", but NC also found the lawyers who work in solo practice or smaller firms



make up the majority of applicants for the programs. However applicants from larger firms make up 23% of the applicant pool.

Finally, the survey showed that, over the past five years, the percentage of applicants from smaller towns and outlying communities consistently runs between 30% to 40%.

According to statistics, the typical 2006 applicant for specialization was a lawyer practicing for 16 or more years, who works in a smaller firm of 2-9 lawyers and practices in a smaller town or outlying community near a larger city.

Dates to Remember

This information is pulled from various websites, please check with the organizations, as information may be updated.

The National Board of Legal Specialty Certification will be offering the certification examinations for **Civil Trial, Criminal Trial, Family Law Trial, and Social Security Disability** in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis on April 21, 2007. For more information, see: <http://www.nbtanet.org/public/application/index.shtml>

The American Board of Certification offers the opportunity to schedule an exam for the **Business Bankruptcy, Consumer Bankruptcy, and Creditors Rights** certifications in your office, or the exams will be offered April 12 at the ABI Annual Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C., April 19 at the CLLA Chicago Conference, and also in Philadelphia on April 19 at the NACBA Annual Convention. For registration deadlines, study guides, and sample exams, see: <http://www.abworld.org/exam.html>

The National Elder Law Foundation will offer the exam for **Elder Law** on June 1, 2007. It will be proctored in local offices of Certified Elder Law specialists, so you can likely take it in a location near you. They also offer a certification review course that will be held May 2 in Cleveland, OH, and November 5 in Memphis. For more information, contact Lori Barbee at 520-881-4005 or see: <http://www.nelf.org/become.htm>

The Estate Law Specialist Board, Inc. offers the exam for **Estate Planning** online, 24/7. For more information, or to apply, see: http://www.naepc.org/estate_law.web

The American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys will offer the certification exams for **Medical Malpractice, Legal Malpractice, and Accounting Malpractice** on June 8 in San Francisco. For more information, see: <http://www.abpla.org/index.php?d=whybecome>

The National College of DUI Defense has a September 7 application deadline (and the application is not trivial, so don't wait!) for their next exam for **DUI Defense** which will be January 23, 2008, in Waikiki, Hawaii. For more information, see: http://www.ncdd.com/dsp_certification.cfm

The National Association of Counsel for Children offers certification for **Juvenile Law – Child Welfare** and Tennessee is one of the first four states where this certification is being offered. The first examination in Tennessee will be in the Spring of 2008 and will be offered in Tennessee, probably in Nashville. For more information, see: <http://www.naccchildlaw.org/training/certification.html>

ABC finds a New Home

On December 18, 2006, ABC's headquarters relocated at 101 Second Street SE, Suite 904, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401; telephone number (319) 365-2222. In addition to their new central location, the ABC and its members will now enjoy the services of both a full-time director *and* a full-time assistant in Cedar Rapids.

We believe these changes will greatly enhance the benefits being provided by the

ABC to its certified attorneys and applicants for certification.

According to Dian Gilmore, Executive Director, *"Our Board made the decision to move from Washington since we're really not involved in legislative changes. It also helps being more locally centralized with regards to serving the membership on both the West and East coasts. We are very happy to be in our new home!"*

Log on to www.LegalSpecialists.org
for the latest certification news

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

National Association of Estate Planners & Council Announces

The 2006 honoree for the Hartman Axley Lifetime Service Award was **Harold S. Small**, Attorney, AEP from San Diego, California. He served as the NAEPC's president in 1992 and 1993. Mr. Small was selected for this award in recognition of his many years of dedicated service, both to the field of estate planning and the NAEPC. He is the third recipient of this award, recognizing excellence in his profession and service to the NAEPC. "I am honored to be recognized by such a distinguished group of colleagues at NAEPC," he said. "Continuing into my 30th year in supporting the organization, I'm proud of our accomplishments and shared commitment to the estate-planning practice." While serving as a director of the NAEPC, Mr. Small was instrumental in creating the [Accredited Estate Planner](#) (AEP) designation for estate planners throughout the United States, which acknowledges their experience and knowledge in estate planning.

ATTENTION BAR LEADERS...



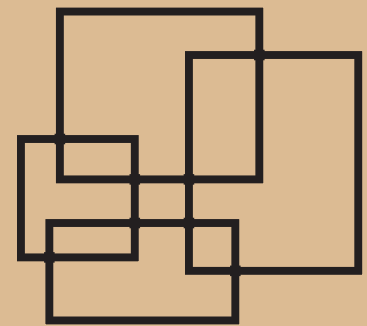
Please stop by and visit the Specialization Table at the Bar Leadership Institute in Chicago! The 2007 BLI will begin on Thursday, March 15th at 8:30 am and ends with a reception at ABA Headquarters at 5:30 pm on Friday, March 16th. Make sure your bar leaders come by and pay us a visit!

FLORIDA BAR OFFERS NEW BOARD CERTIFICATION AWARD

The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education's new **Excellence in the Promotion of Board Certification Award** recognizes creativity by a Florida Bar board certified lawyer or Florida law firm in advancing the public's knowledge of and appreciation for, legal board certification. Accepted entries are newsletters, brochures, news stories, speeches, PowerPoint presentations, mementoes, special events, and print, radio and television advertisements.

The excellence award and the BLSE's Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award for Board Certified Lawyer of the Year will be presented in June at the 2007 Annual Florida Bar Convention.

Nomination forms are available at FloridaBar.org/certification and are due by 5 p.m. on April 27, 2007.



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The views expressed in *Certification Link* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policies of the American Bar Association. The contents of this publication have not been approved by the ABA House of Delegates and do not constitute ABA policy.