



**The North Carolina State Bar  
Board of Legal Specialization**

PO Box 25908  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
(919) 828-4620  
[www.nclawspecialists.gov](http://www.nclawspecialists.gov)

**2014  
Application for Certification as a  
Specialist**

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Raleigh

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**Denise Mullen, Assistant Director**

**Lanice V. Heidbrink, Executive Assistant**

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
**North Carolina State Bar Application for Certification as a Specialist**

1. **Standards** - Read the North Carolina Plan of Specialization and the standards for certification in your specialty area. These materials are found at 27 N.C.A.C. 1D, Sect. 1700 *et seq.* and are published in the North Carolina State Bar *Lawyer's Handbook* and on our website [www.ncbar.gov](http://www.ncbar.gov).
2. **Fees** - A filing fee of \$250 must accompany this application. All checks should be payable to North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. Rejection or withdrawal of an application will not entitle an applicant to a refund of the fee or any part of the fee. **Applications received by June 16, 2014, will qualify for a \$50 discount on the application fee.** An exam fee of \$150 will be due and payable upon notification that an applicant is eligible to take a specialty examination. \*Additional exam fees apply for joint certification with national certifying agencies in bankruptcy and elder law.
3. **Filing Timeliness** - The completed application shall be considered timely filed if the application is delivered to the offices of the North Carolina State Bar before 5:00 p.m. on July 1, 2014, or is postmarked no later than July 1, 2014.
4. **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FORM**
  - A. **PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION.** If additional space is needed to answer a question, please attach pages to the application.
  - B. **WAIVER of STRICT COMPLIANCE** – If an applicant cannot meet the strict requirements for substantial involvement or CLE for a specialty, the applicant may request a waiver of strict compliance. To do so, you must complete the waiver of strict compliance form, available on the website <http://www.nclawspecialists.gov/forms.asp> and submit the form with your application.
  - C. **REFERENCES** - Each applicant for certification is asked to submit the names and addresses of 10 references in support of his or her application. It is preferred that references have experience in the applicable specialty. The extent of a reference's involvement in the applicable specialty and relationship to the applicant will be considered in the evaluation process. All references will be contacted by the Board Legal Specialization, or its representatives, and asked to complete written peer reference statements. A minimum of 5 complete peer reference statements must be received in order for an application to advance. The applicant is not responsible for asking the listed references to complete the forms. The Board, or its representatives, may contact, in person or by telephone, any reference listed by an applicant or any other lawyer or judge qualified to evaluate the applicant's competence and qualification in the specialty area.
  - D. **SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FORMS** - Please note the specialties marked with an asterisk \* on the following page and submit the supplemental application form, available on the website <http://www.nclawspecialists.gov/forms.asp> with your application in those specialty areas.
5. **Processing of Applications** - Only completed applications will be reviewed by the Board of Legal Specialization. Each applicant will be notified by mail of acceptance or rejection of his or her application.

6. **Examination** – Upon the board’s determination that applicant is qualified to sit for a specialty exam, a confirmation notice with the time and location of the examination will be sent to you. The exam schedule is online at: [www.nclawspecialists.gov/becoming](http://www.nclawspecialists.gov/becoming). Examination results are provided by mail.
7. **Confidentiality** - All information contained in the application, supporting documents, peer reference information and statements, and examination results shall be confidential and unless otherwise subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act but shall be available for use only by the Board, the appropriate specialty committee, or any appropriate body or tribunal in the event of an appeal.
8. **Special Testing Accommodations for Disabled Applicants** - A written request for special accommodations, supported by documentation of disability, must be submitted to the executive director at least two weeks prior to the exam.
9. **Completed Applications** - All completed applications should be delivered to the State Bar or postmarked on or by July 1, 2014, to:

**North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization  
Attn: Executive Director  
PO Box 25908  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
Or hand deliver to: 217 E. Edenton Street, Raleigh**



The North Carolina State Bar  
Board of Legal Specialization  
**APPLICATION FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION**

Please check the specialty (or subspecialties) you are applying for:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Practice*                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Bankruptcy Law             | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Law                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer Bankruptcy Law             | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Real Property Law    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law - State*               | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Real Property Law   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law - Federal/State*       | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Disability Law* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law -Juvenile Delinquency* | <input type="checkbox"/> Trademark Law                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Law *                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers' Compensation Law*      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estate Planning and Probate Law*    |  |

Please list any specialty in which you are already certified: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Application Supplement Required

Bar Membership Name	
Preferred Name	North Carolina State Bar Number

**I. Directory Information**

A.

Preferred Address for Correspondence with Board*				
City	State	Zip Code	Telephone	
Fax		Email Address		
Current Firm or Employer Name and Address				
City	State	Zip Code	Telephone	# of Lawyers at Firm or Employer

**\* IMPORTANT: If you are certified, your official address and contact information on record with the membership department of the State Bar will be used in the Specialist Directory and on our website unless you notify us otherwise. Any updates reported to State Bar membership will not automatically update in the specialization database. Changes must be reported directly to specialization staff.**

B. If you have been certified as a specialist by any organizations **other than** the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, list the name and date of each certification and identify the certifying organization:

Name of Certification	Date of Certification	Certifying Organization

C. How did you hear about the North Carolina State Bar certification program? \_\_\_\_\_

**II. States of Licensure**

**List all states (other than North Carolina) in which you are licensed to practice law:**

State	Date of Admission	Membership Number	Member in Good Standing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
State	Date of Admission	Membership Number	Member in Good Standing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

\* Please attach a letter of good standing for each jurisdiction listed.

**III. Professional Conduct**

A. Since your admission to the North Carolina State Bar, have you been disbarred, suspended from practice, reprimanded, censured, sanctioned or otherwise disciplined or disqualified (including the revocation of a pro hac vice admission, or a disability or administrative suspension) by a licensing agency, court, or professional organization for conduct as a lawyer or as a member of any profession or organization, or as a holder of any office, public or private? Include court orders and letters of warning and caution in your response.

Yes  No

B. Are there any such actions pending (unresolved) against you?

Yes\*  No

\* Attach a copy of the letter or notice advising you of the pending action.

C. For each such action, state the following:

(1) The disciplinary agency, court, or professional organization: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Date of notice to you if unresolved or date of discipline, sanction, disqualification, or other such action, if resolved: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) If discipline, sanction, or disqualification was issued, attach copy of order or record of such action.

(4) Attach written explanation.

D. List all malpractice actions filed against you since initial licensure regardless of whether the action is currently pending or resolved. With regard to each action, state or provide the following (attach additional sheets if necessary):

(1) Name of action:

(2) Date of filing and venue of action:

(3) Explanation of status or resolution:

#### **IV. Substantial Involvement**

**Instructions:** Please describe your practice during each of the years listed below. To qualify for certification, the applicant's practice in the area of law for which certification is sought must equal or exceed the substantial involvement requirements set forth in the standards for the applicable specialty. Please indicate hours of substantial involvement per year (do not use percentages). The substantial involvement requirements can be found at [www.nclawspecialists.gov](http://www.nclawspecialists.gov).

Number of total years you have practiced in this specialty area \_\_\_\_\_

2009

Approximate number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of substantive legal work or practice equivalent:

2010

Approximate number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of substantive legal work or practice equivalent:

2011

Approximate number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of substantive legal work or practice equivalent:

2012

Approximate number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of substantive legal work or practice equivalent:

2013

Approximate number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of substantive legal work or practice equivalent:

2014 to date

Approximate number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of substantive legal work or practice equivalent:

\* Attach additional pages if necessary.

**V. Continuing Legal Education**

You must meet the CLE requirements for the specialty. CLE activities must be completed between January 1, 2011, and the date of application. Your CLE record with the North Carolina State Bar CLE Department will be confirmed. Do not list activities previously reported to the CLE department. List the following activities if not previously reported (credit is subject to board approval):

- **Lectures** prepared and presented at an accredited CLE course;
- **Teaching** in the specialty field at an academic institution;
- **Publication** of a scholarly article in the specialty field;
- **Self-study** courses;
- **Advanced academic coursework** (attendance at courses of instruction at a law school which can be credited toward an advanced degree in the specialty field).

\* Attach additional pages if necessary.

Activity Type	Title	Sponsor	Date	City and State	Total Hours

**VI. References**

Identify as references 10 lawyers or judges who are familiar with your competence and qualifications in the specialty. Insofar as possible, select persons who are board certified specialists in the specialty or substantially involved in the area as that term is defined in the certification standards. All references must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in North Carolina. You may not use as a reference persons who are your partners or associates or your relatives by blood or marriage, or who are involved with you in a continuing commercial relationship. Applicants for certification in bankruptcy law may not use a bankruptcy judge as a reference. Applicants for certification in immigration law must list at least two peer references who are lawyers or judges with substantial experience in immigration law. Applicants for social security disability law may list references licensed and in good standing to practice law in any jurisdiction in the United States. **Members of the Board of Legal Specialization and members of the applicable specialty committee may not serve as references.** A complete list of committee members is included at the end of the application. You may advise your peer references that you have listed them on this application. **Use full names (not nicknames) when listing references.**

1.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

2.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

3.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

4.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

5.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

6.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

7.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

8.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	



9.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

10.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Phone	Email	

**PLEASE DO NOT LIST CURRENT BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS REFERENCES**

(Prohibition applies only to specialty for which you are applying.)

**Specialization Board Members (who are lawyers and judges) as of May 1, 2014**

James B. Angell-Chair  
Larry H. Rocamora  
Robert A. Mason

Laura D. Burton -Vice Chair  
Teresa H. Vincent  
Lana S. Warlick

**North Carolina State Bar Specialty Committee Members as of May 1, 2014**

**Appellate Law Committee**

Justice Robert H. Edmunds  
Christopher G. Browning Jr.  
Lisa S. Costner  
John J. Korzen  
Frank G. Queen  
Matthew W. Sawchak  
Elizabeth B. Scherer

Eugene M. Carr III  
Charles "Whit" Clanton  
G. Elizabeth Hodges  
Evan B. Horwitz  
J. Randal Hunter

**Bankruptcy Law Committee**

Kevin L. Sink  
John C. Bircher  
Richard M. Hutson II  
Jennifer Adams Ledford  
Robert M. Pitts  
Robyn R.C. Whitman  
A. Cotten Wright

**Immigration Law Committee**

Elizabeth R. Edwards  
Penni P. Bradshaw  
Lisa R. Brenman  
Hans C. Linnartz  
Hannah F. Little  
George N. Miller  
Jeffrey B. Widdison

**Criminal Law Committee**

J. Matthew Martin  
Janna D. Allison  
Lizmar Bosques Rosado  
John K. Fanny  
Robert C. Kemp  
Joel N. Oakley  
Anand P. Ramaswamy

**Real Property Law Committee**

John W. King  
Robert W. Allen  
Alison R. Cayton  
Nancy S. Ferguson  
Kim W. Gallimore  
Lu Pendleton Hayes  
Joseph "J.C." Hearne  
Philip E. Searcy

**Criminal Law-Juvenile Delinquency**

Eric J. Zogry  
John W. Cox Jr.  
Julie C. Boyer  
Mary D. Stansell

**Social Security Disability Law Committee**

Janet M. Lyles  
Frederick "Rick" W. Fleming  
Vance Edward Jennings  
Christa A. McGill  
George C. Piemonte  
Kevin D. Rodgers  
Monica Rathke Savidge

**Elder Law Committee**

Andrew W. Olsen  
Mark E. Edwards  
Letha S. McDowell  
Anthony Nicholson  
Brent W. Stephens

**Trademark Law Committee**

Matthew J. Ladenheim  
Arthur J. DeBaugh  
Angela P. Doughty  
David W. Sar  
Maury M. Tepper III  
Ed Timberlake  
Neal B. Wolgin

**Estate Planning and Probate Law Committee**

John G. Kelso  
Linda F. Johnson  
Timothy W. Jones  
Jennifer L. J. Koenig  
Gregory T. Peacock  
Jill L. Raspet  
Pamela K. Silverman

**Workers' Compensation Law Committee**

Vernon R. Sumwalt  
Michael W. Bertics  
Gina E. Cammarano  
Jack S. Holmes  
H. George Kurani  
Joel K. Turner  
Branch Vincent

**Family Law Committee**

Barbara R. Morgenstern  
Mary Craven Adams

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT/RELEASE**

I have read the rules of the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization (the Board) and the standards for the specialty. I agree to comply with the rules and the standards for the specialty.

I understand that I may not be certified as a specialist in more than two fields of law.

I agree to pay all fees required by the Board when due.

I understand that the period of certification is 5 years. If I become a certified specialist and desire to continue my certification, I must comply with the standards regarding continued certification as a specialist.

By this application, I release from any and all liability and extend absolute immunity to The North Carolina State Bar, and all individuals, committees, and institutions in any way involved in this certification process including references and informants.

I specifically authorize the Board or any specialty committee acting on its behalf to consult with any persons who may have information relating to my professional qualifications, credentials or character, mental or emotional stability, ethics, behavior, or any other matter reasonably bearing on the criteria for initial and continued certification. This authorization includes inspecting and obtaining any writing that may be material to my certification. I hereby authorize release of any information and writing, whether privileged or not, requested by the specialty committee and/or the Board. I understand that all information received and made part of my file shall be treated confidentially.

- **Applicant's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby consent to the disclosure of any information relating to any grievance filed against me with the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar and authorize the release of any information relating thereto to the Board for the purpose of evaluating this application for certification.

- **Applicant's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

By executing this release, I acknowledge that I am specifically authorizing the North Carolina State Bar and the disciplinary authorities of any other jurisdiction in which I am/or was licensed to provide to the Board any and all information concerning disciplinary complaints filed against me, even if confidential.

- **Applicants Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that board certification is a voluntary program and has no effect on my eligibility to practice law in any area of practice even if I am denied certification.

- **Applicant's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS CANNOT SERVE ITS PURPOSE UNLESS THE INDIVIDUALS FROM WHOM INFORMATION IS REQUESTED ARE GUARANTEED COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY. BY APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION, I EXPRESSLY AGREE TO WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO REQUEST ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH PEER REVIEW AT ANY STAGE OF THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS.**

- **Applicant's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I UNDERSTAND THAT BOARD CERTIFICATION, IF OBTAINED, MAY BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED PURSUANT TO THE RULES REGULATING THE SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR. I AGREE TO SURRENDER ANY CERTIFICATE OF SPECIALTY GRANTED IF REVOKED**

- **Applicant's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission of this application and its attachments constitutes the applicant's verification of the truth of all statements and representations contained herein.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

(For applicant use only- do not send in this checklist with your application)

- I have read and initialed all applicable items on the Acknowledgement/Release
- I have signed and dated the Acknowledgement/Release
- I have enclosed a check for the \$250 application fee made payable to the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization and understand that this fee is nonrefundable regardless of the disposition of my application. I agree to pay an additional fee of \$150\* upon notice that I am eligible to take a specialty examination. **Applications received by June 16, 2014, will qualify for a \$50 discount on the application fee.**
- I have included an application supplement (if applicable) for my application in:
  - Appellate Practice
  - Criminal Law
  - Elder Law
  - Estate Planning and Probate Law
  - Social Security Disability Law
  - Workers' Compensation Law
- I have included a request for a waiver of strict compliance (if applicable).
- I have provided a copy of the letter(s) sent to a disciplinary agency, court or professional organization requesting documentation of grievance history and /or any applicable information requested in section III.

\* Additional exam fees apply for joint certification with national certifying agencies in bankruptcy and elder law.