



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

217 E. Edenton St.  
PO Box 25908  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
(919) 828-4620  
[www.nclawspecialists.gov](http://www.nclawspecialists.gov)

**2014**  
**Application for Recertification as a  
Specialist**

**Board Members**

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Raleigh

**Laura D. Burton, Vice Chair**  
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**Lanice V. Heidbrink, Executive Assistant**

## North Carolina State Bar Application for Recertification as a Specialist

1. **Standards** - Read the North Carolina Plan of Specialization and the standards for recertification 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 made payable to the 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 between September 3 and December 31, 2014, will be accepted with an additional \$250 late filing fee. Applications received after December 31, 2014, will not be accepted.
3. **Filing Timeliness** - The application shall be considered timely filed if the application is delivered to the office of the North Carolina State Bar before 5:00 p.m. on September 2, 2014, or is postmarked no later than September 2, 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 requirements for substantial involvement or CLE for the applicant's specialty, a waiver of strict compliance may be requested. To do so, you must complete the waiver of strict compliance form, available at [www.nclawspecialists.gov/forms.asp](http://www.nclawspecialists.gov/forms.asp) and submit the form with your application.
  - C. **REFERENCES** - Each applicant for recertification 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 of 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.
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. **Confidentiality** - All information contained in the application, supporting documents, peer reference information and statements are confidential and, unless subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act, 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.
7. **COMPLETED APPLICATIONS** - All completed applications should be delivered to the State Bar or postmarked on or by September 2, 2014, to:

**North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization**  
**Attn: Executive Director**  
**217 E. Edenton Street (physical address for hand-delivery)**  
**or**  
**PO Box 25908 (mailing address)**  
**Raleigh, NC 27611**



The North Carolina State Bar  
Board of Legal Specialization

2014 APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION

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     |  |

\* Application Supplement Required

Bar Membership Name

Preferred Name for Correspondence with Board

North Carolina State Bar Number

**I. Please Submit the Following General 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:** Your official address on record with the membership department of the State Bar will be used in the annual specialist directory and on our website unless you notify us otherwise. Any updates reported to the State Bar membership department **will not** automatically update in the specialization database. All address changes must be reported directly to specialization staff.

- B. If you have been certified as a specialist by any organization 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

**III. 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 or attach an explanation if not in good standing.

**IV. Professional Conduct**

- A. During the five years since you were certified or last recertified, have you been disbarred, suspended from practice, reprimanded, censured, or otherwise disciplined or disqualified (including the revocation of a pro hac vice admission, disqualification from representation of a client because of misconduct, 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 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 disciplinary action, state the following:

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

(2) Date of notice to you if unresolved or date of discipline if resolved: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) The discipline received (attach copy of order or record of discipline).

(4) Please attach a written explanation.

- D. List all malpractice actions filed against you in the five years since your certification or last recertification regardless of whether the action is currently pending or resolved. For 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:

## **V. Substantial Involvement**

**Instructions:** Please describe your practice during the calendar years listed below\*. To qualify for recertification, the applicant's practice in the area of law for which recertification 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).

How long have you practiced in this specialty area? \_\_\_\_\_

### **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.

**VI. Continuing Legal Education**

CLE activities must be completed between January 1, 2010, and the end of the current year. 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 any courses that you plan to take before the end of the year as well as the following activities if not previously reported to the CLE department (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

**VII. 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
Phone	Email	

2.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

3.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

4.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

5.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

6.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

7.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

8.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

9.

9.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	

10.

Name	Firm/Employer	Mailing Address
Phone	Email	



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

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

James B. Angell-Chair  
Laura D. Burton -Vice Chair  
Larry H. Rocamora

Robert A. Mason  
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. Fanney  
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

\* Prohibition applies only to committee members for the specialty for which you are applying.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT/RELEASE**

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

I understand that I may not be recertified 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 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, the Board, 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 recertification. 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 recertification.

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

By executing this release, I acknowledge that I am specifically authorizing the North Carolina State Bar or any other state of which I am or was a member 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 recertification.

- **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 RECERTIFICATION, I EXPRESSLY AGREE TO WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO REQUEST ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH PEER REVIEW AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECERTIFICATION PROCESS.**

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

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

- 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. **Applications received after September 2, 2014, will be charged an additional \$250.00 late fee.**
- I have included an application supplement for my application in:
  - Criminal Law
  - Social Security Disability Law
  - Workers' Compensation Law
- I have included a request for a waiver of strict compliance (if applicable).
- I have requested a letter of good standing from all states (other than North Carolina) in which I am licensed to practice law (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 IV.