



Award Nominations Accepted

In 2006, the Board of Legal Specialization launched a new program to recognize excellence among the board certified specialists. Franklin E. Martin, Chair of the Board of Legal Specialization from 2004—2006, was instrumental in establishing this program. “While the awards presentation program and luncheon began while I was Chair of the Board of Specialization, they were the result of efforts begun by previous boards, with the encouragement and guidance of other board-certified specialists and our outstanding staff. The awards - which are aptly named for past Board Chairs Howard Gum (Service Award), Sara Davis (Excellence Award) and Jim Cross (Leadership Award) - and the presentation ceremony have grown in stature and popularity year by year and have been very instrumental in the continued growth and increased recognition of the specialization program. I am honored to have been involved with its implementation.”

Each year we are proud to present the awards based on the nominations that we receive from board certified specialists. Your input is very important in this process and we hope that you will take a moment to nominate a colleague. The awards are defined below and nomination forms are attached and available online at www.nclawspecialists.gov. Nomination forms are due by April 1, 2011.

The awards will be presented at the Specialists Luncheon on April 29, 2011, along with recognition of new board certified specialists. We hope you can join us for this annual event. Thank you in advance for your participation.

The Sara H. Davis Excellence Award

Nominations for this award are accepted from North Carolina certified specialists. The award is presented to a certified specialist who exemplifies excellence in his/her daily work as an attorney and serves as a model for other lawyers. Special consideration is given for a long and consistent record of handling challenging matters successfully, for sharing knowledge and experience with other lawyers, for earning the respect and admiration of all others with whom the lawyer comes into contact in his/her daily work, and for high ethical standards.

The James E. Cross, Jr. Leadership Award

Nominations for this award are accepted from members of the North Carolina State Bar who have worked closely with the nominee. The award is presented to a certified specialist who has taken an active leadership role in his/her practice area through presentations at CLE seminars, scholarly writings, participation in groundbreaking cases, or service to an established professional organization.

The Howard L. Gum Service Award

This award is given to a specialty committee member who consistently excels in completing committee tasks. The recipient is highly dedicated to legal specialization, donates his/her time to committee responsibilities, and responds to the needs of the staff and the Board, in exemplary fashion.

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 1: Nomination forms due

April 29: Specialists Luncheon and Awards Celebration

May 1—June 30: Applications accepted for initial certification

July 1—August 30: Recertification Applications Due

October 21: Specialization Exams held in Charlotte

November 2: Specialization Exams held in Raleigh

You are invited

To the 2011 Annual Luncheon for Board Certified Specialists

Please join the North Carolina State Bar
Board of Legal Specialization for a celebration luncheon,
honoring newly certified specialists and
announcing the recipients of the service and leadership awards.

Friday April 29, 2011

12:00—1:30 pm

Extraordinary Ventures

(Catered by Il Palio of the Sienna Hotel)

200 S. Elliott Road

Chapel Hill, NC

919-967-1100 www.extraordinaryventures.org

RSVP by April 18th to Lanice Heidbrink
at 919-828-4620 ext. 271 or
lheidbrink@ncbar.gov.

*Please advise of any food allergies or
special dietary needs.



NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BAR

Board of Legal Specialization

<http://www.nclawspecialists.gov/>

Remember to wear your lapel pin!
(new specialists receive lapel pins at the luncheon)

CLE Requirements for Recertification—An important reminder

The duration of certification as a legal specialist is five years. At the end of each five year period, all specialists apply to be re-certified in their specialty area. The requirements for re-certification include an evaluation of the continuing legal education (CLE) credits that you earned during your certification period. Please remember that these differ from the NC State Bar mandatory CLE requirements. Below is a summary of the CLE requirements for re-certification. Please review the CLE requirements for your specialty and your own CLE record now in order to ensure that you will meet the requirements by your recertification date, depending on your renewal year. If you have any questions about your individual CLE record, please feel free to contact Lanice Heidbrink or Denise Mullen at 919-828-4620, lheidbrink@ncbar.gov or dmullen@ncbar.gov.

Bankruptcy: Since last certified, a specialist must have earned no less than 60 hours of accredited continued legal education credits in bankruptcy law with not less than 6 credits earned in any one year.

Criminal Law: The specialist must have earned no less than 65 hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in criminal law with not less than 6 credits earned in any one year.

Elder Law: The specialist must earn seventy-five (75) hours of accredited continuing legal education (CLE) credits in elder law or related fields during the five calendar years preceding application, with not less than ten (10) credits earned in any calendar year. Related fields shall include the following: estate planning and administration, trust law, health and long term care planning, public benefits, surrogate decision-making, older persons' legal capacity, social security disability, Medicaid/Medicare claims and taxation. No more than forty (40) credits may be earned in the related fields of estate taxation or estate administration.

Estate Planning: Since last certified, a specialist must have earned no less than 120 hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in estate planning and probate law. Of the 120 hours of CLE at least 75 hours shall be in estate planning and probate law (provided, however, that 15 of the 75 hours may be in the related areas of elder law, Medicaid planning, and guardianship), and the balance may be in the related areas of taxation, business organizations, real property, family law, elder law, Medicaid planning, and guardianship.

Family: Since last certified, a specialist must have earned no less than 60 hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in family law or related fields. Not less than nine credits may be earned in any one year, and no more than twelve credits may be in related fields. Related fields shall include taxation, trial advocacy, evidence, negotiations (including training in mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law), juvenile law, real property, estate planning and probate law, business organizations, employee benefits, bankruptcy, elder law, and immigration law. Only nine hours of CLE credit will be recognized for attendance at an extended negotiation or mediation training course. Parenting coordinator training will not qualify for family law or related field hours.

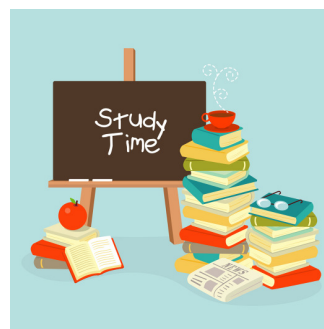
Immigration: The specialist must have earned no less than 60 hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in immigration law as accredited by the board. At least 30 of the 60 CLE credit hours must be earned during the first three years after certification or recertification, as applicable. Of the 60 hours, at least 52 must be in immigration law; the balance may be in the related areas of federal administrative procedure, trial advocacy, evidence, taxation, family law, employment law, and criminal law and procedure.

Real Property: The specialist must have earned no less than 60 hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in real property law as accredited by the board with not less than 6 credits earned in any one year. Of the 60 hours of CLE, at least 50 hours shall be in real property law and the balance may be in the related areas of environmental law, taxation, business organizations, estate planning and probate law, and elder law.

Social Security disability: The specialist must earn no less than 60 hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in Social Security disability law and related fields during the five years preceding application. Not less than six of the credits may be earned in any one-year. Of the 60 hours of CLE, at least 20 hours shall be in Social Security disability law, and the balance may be in the following related fields: trial skills and advocacy; practice management; medical injuries, medicine or anatomy; ERISA; labor and employment law; elder law; workers' compensation law; and the law relating to long term disability or Medicaid/Medicare claims.

Worker's Compensation: The specialist must earn no less than sixty hours of accredited continuing legal education credits in workers' compensation law during the five years preceding application. Not less than six credits may be earned in any one year. Of the sixty hours of CLE, at least thirty hours shall

be in workers' compensation law, and the balance may be in the following related fields: civil trial practice and procedure; evidence; mediation; medical injuries, medicine or anatomy; labor and employment law; and Social Security disability law.



Attorney Advertising

One of the benefits of specialization, indeed one of its purposes, is to allow you to convey to the public that you are an attorney who specializes in a certain practice area. The rules governing advertising are fairly strict, enabling only those attorneys who are certified as specialists by the North Carolina State Bar or an ABA accredited program to advertise their specialty to potential clients.

Attorney advertising is the subject of much debate and certainly some laughter as well. But the straightforward communication of an achievement—becoming a board certified specialist—is a legitimate way to educate the public about your practice.

Alice Mine, the State Bar's Assistant Director, is among the staff lawyers who reviews proposed lawyer advertising, primarily television and radio commercials. She cautions against including information about past results which may cause clients to assume they can attain similar results. She notes that advertisements must be truthful and not misleading and encourages certified specialists to publicize their certification because it provides objective information to prospective clients. Ms. Mine can be reached for more information on advertising at 919-828-4620.

A large part of any marketing plan should include a way for potential clients to find your firm on-line. The specialization database (<http://www.nclawspecialists.gov/search.asp>) provides a reliable way for you to share information with potential clients. You can add information about your law school, your office locations and even some information about your firm.

Update your profile today!

Follow these steps to update your profile.

1. Go to www.ncbar.gov
2. Select *Member Login* on the top of the page
3. Use your State Bar ID number and password to log in
4. If you need a password, just fill in your email address and wait for your password via email
5. Follow the link provided in the email and use your password to access member information
6. Update your profile as necessary

Your updated profile can enhance your personal client development plan!

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Lanice V. Heidbrink, staff

New Exam Questions Wanted—

If you've been involved in a recent case that was interesting or groundbreaking, please consider submitting an exam question (with model answer) for use on the exam in your specialty this fall.

Tips for drafting an essay question:

1. Base question on legal principles and theories of general application, not obscure provisions.
2. Questions should contain two or more issues and allow for independent discussion of each issue.
3. Draft question so that examinee can perceive which points of law are involved and what discussion is expected.
4. Questions can include factual ambiguities to test applicant's ability to comprehend the need for additional information.
5. Question should not contain unintentional ambiguities or intentional irrelevancies (e.g. "red herrings").

The specialty committees work diligently to update the exams each year and are always looking for assistance. If you are able to participate, please email questions to dmullen@ncbar.gov by June 30, 2011.

Committee Chairs

Justice Robert H. Edmunds
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