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

# 2009 Application for Recertification as a Specialist

- Bankruptcy Law
- Estate Planning and Probate Law
- Family Law
- Immigration Law
- Real Property Law

208 Fayetteville St., PO Box 25908  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
(919) 828-4620

[www.nclawspecialists.gov](http://www.nclawspecialists.gov)

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

## **Special Instructions and Information for Applicants**

Please read and follow these instructions before completing this application.

1. **READ** the North Carolina Plan of Specialization, the standards for recertification in your specialty area, and the regulations for accreditation of continuing legal education. These materials are found at 27 N.C.A.C. 1 D, Sect.1700 *et seq.* and are published in the *North Carolina State Bar Lawyer's Handbook*

2. **FILING FEE**—A filing fee of \$250.00 must accompany this application. All checks should be payable to the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization (the "board"). Rejection or withdrawal of an application will not entitle an applicant to a refund of the fee or any part of the fee.

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 August 31, 2009, or is postmarked no later than August 31, 2009. Applications received between September 1 and December 31, 2009, will be accepted with a \$250 late filing fee. Applications received after December 31, 2009, will not be accepted.

### **4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FORM—**

A. Please answer each question. If additional space is needed, attach pages to application.

B. **Substantial Involvement**—On page 10, the applicant is asked to describe his or her practice during each of the preceding five years. To qualify for recertification, 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.

C. **CLE Requirements**—Applicants are not required to file detailed CLE histories with this application. The board will verify pre-2009 CLE credits by consulting the records of the Board of Continuing Legal Education. However, an applicant relying upon CLE credit from activities that were not reported to the CLE Board should describe those activities on the form provided.

D. **Fulfillment of Requirements in 2009**—Although the deadline for applying for recertification is August 31, 2009,

some applicants may not have completed the annual requirements relating to substantial involvement or CLE by that time. Any applicant who has not met one or both of the requirements for 2009 by the time his or her application for recertification is filed, but who expects to fulfill the requirements by the end of the calendar year, should note that circumstance in the space provided on the application and should supplement his or her application by letter later in the year when the requirement has been fulfilled.

5. **PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS**—A notice showing the date of filing will be sent to each applicant. Only completed applications will be reviewed by the Board of Legal Specialization. An applicant will be notified by mail of the acceptance or rejection of his or her application.

6. **EXAMINATION**—No examination is required for recertification.

7. **NOTICE OF RECERTIFICATION**—Applicants for recertification will be notified of the board's decision in regard to their applications in January 2010.

8. **CONFIDENTIALITY**—All information contained in the application supporting documents contained in the applicant's recertification file and peer reference information and statements, shall be confidential and shall be only available to the board, the appropriate specialty committee, or any appropriate body or tribunal in event of an appeal.

9. **REFERENCES**—Each applicant for recertification is asked to submit the names and addresses of ten (10) references in support of his or her application. These individuals will be contacted by the Board of Legal Specialization, or its representatives, and asked to complete written peer reference statements. A minimum of five (5) completed peer reference statements must be received for each applicant. Applicants are not responsible for asking their 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.

10. **COMPLETED APPLICATIONS**—All completed applications should be mailed to the Executive Director, The North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, PO Box 25908, Raleigh, NC 27611.

**The North Carolina State Bar  
Board of Legal Specialization  
2009 Application for Recertification of Specialist**

Filed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Office Use Only)

File number \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Office Use Only)

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ State Bar number \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Area of specialty in which you seek recertification \_\_\_\_\_

Firm or employer \_\_\_\_\_

Office address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAX) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

List any other state bars to which you have been admitted and dates of admission:

\_\_\_\_\_

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

During the last five years since your most recent certification, have you been disbarred, suspended from practice, reprimanded, censured, 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 an attorney or member of any profession or organization, or holder of any office, public or private?

Yes  No If so, state the following:

a) nature of discipline, suspension, or disqualification: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) date of discipline, suspension or disqualification: \_\_\_\_\_

c) name/address of person or body with possession of the record: \_\_\_\_\_

d) reason(s) for the discipline, suspension, or disqualification: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

During the last five years since your most recent certification, have you been a defendant in a legal malpractice action which is currently pending, or was resolved by a judgment against you or by a settlement to the plaintiff(s)?  
 Yes  No If so, state the following:

- a) date of filing and venue of action: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) how the action was resolved (judgment or settlement - if you desire, you may attach an explanatory statement): \_\_\_\_\_
- c) copy of complaint
- d) copy of the judgment or settlement agreement

List any other area(s) in which you are certified as a specialist by the Board of Legal Specialization:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please check the area in which you seek recertification:

- Bankruptcy Law
- Business
- Consumer
- Estate Planning and Probate Law
- Family Law
- Immigration Law
- Real Property Law
- Real Property Law—Residential Transactions
- Real Property Law—Business, Commercial, and Industrial Transactions

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPLICANT:**

- I have read the rules of the board and the standards of the specialty. I agree to comply with the rules and regulations of the board and the standards of the specialty.
- I understand that recertification is voluntary. I understand that I will be able to continue to practice in fields of law other than the one in which I am applying for recertification, as well as in the specialty area, even if I am denied recertification.
- I am currently licensed to practice law in North Carolina and I am in good standing.
- I understand that I may be certified as a specialist in no more than two fields of law.
- Check one:

I have had "substantial involvement" (as defined in the certification standards) in the area of law for which recertification as a specialist is sought during the five calendar years since I was originally certified.

I have had "substantial involvement" (as defined in the certification standards) in the area of law for which recertification as a specialist is sought during the five calendar years since I was originally certified, except that I have yet to satisfy fully the requirement for the current year. I intend to do so and will notify the board as soon as possible thereafter.

- Check one:

I have achieved the number of continuing legal education credits required by the standards of the specialty during the past five (5) calendar years (including 2009).

I have achieved the number of continuing legal education credits required by the standards of the specialty during the past five (5) calendar years, except that I must complete the requirement for the current year. I intend to do so and will notify the board as soon as possible thereafter.

- I hereby authorize the board to verify my CLE activities by reviewing records of the same maintained by the Board of Continuing Legal Education.
- I consent to a confidential inquiry by the board of the references listed on the Statement of Reference form and others familiar with my competence for the purpose of determining whether I fulfill the requirements for recertification. I further agree that all information received by the Board of Legal Specialization in conjunction with my application, including, but not limited to, peer reference information and statements, shall be confidential and shall be available for use only by the board, the appropriate specialty committee, and any other appropriate body or tribunal in event of an appeal, to determine my qualifications for recertification. I specifically waive the right to review the peer reference statements made to the board that become part of my official file.
- I agree to surrender any certificate of specialty granted to me by the Board of Legal Specialization if such certificate is revoked by the Board of Legal Specialization. I agree to pay all fees required by the board when due.
- I understand the period of recertification is five (5) years. Thereafter, if I desire to continue my certification. I must comply with the standards regarding continued certification as a specialist.
- I affirm the contents of this application and its attachments, and I affirm that the material representations of my experience and education set forth herein are true and correct.
- I am enclosing my check for \$250.00 as the recertification fee. I understand this fee is nonrefundable regardless of the disposition of my application.

(*Please check*) Submission of this application constitutes the applicant's verification of the truth of all statements and representations contained herein.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or type full name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

RETURN TO:

The Executive Director  
The North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization  
PO Box 25908  
Raleigh, NC 27611

# The North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization 2009 Application for Recertification Continuing Legal Education Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Bar Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

This CLE credit form must be completed and submitted with your application (attach additional sheets if necessary).

If approved by the Board of Legal Specialization, you may also receive credit toward recertification for any of the following activities during the past five years.

1. Attendance at a lecture-type course in the specialty field;
2. Preparation and presentation of written materials at an accredited CLE course;
3. Teaching a course in the specialty field at an academic institution;
4. Publication of a scholarly article in the specialty field;
5. Self-study; and
6. Advanced academic course work (attendance at courses of instruction at a law school which could be credited toward an advanced degree in the specialty field).

Please list only those courses you have taken during 2008 or for which you are presently registered:

**1. Seminars or Courses Attended in 2009 for Which You Are Presently Registered. Please list only those courses you have taken during 2009 or for which you are presently registered:**

Title of Course	Name of Sponsor	Date	Location	# Hrs.	App. # (Office Use Only)

**2. Lectures Prepared and Presented at an Accredited CLE Course in 2009:**

Course	Sponsor	Date	Location	# Hrs.	App. # (Office Use Only)

**3. Teaching in the Specialty Field at an Academic Institution:**

Course	School	Dates	Semester Hrs.	App. # (Office Use Only)

**4. Publication of a Scholarly Article in the Specialty Field:**

(Please submit a copy of the article with your application)

Name of Article	Publication	Date of Publication	# Words	App. # (Office Use Only)

**5. Self-Study Courses:**

Course Name	Sponsor	Description	Dates of Use	Hours	App. # (Office Use Only)

**6. Advanced Academic Course Work (Attendance at courses of instruction at a law school which provide credit toward an advanced degree in the specialty field)**

Course Name	School	Dates	Semester Hrs.	App. # (Office Use Only)

**The North Carolina State Bar  
Board of Legal Specialization  
2009 Application for Recertification  
Statement of References**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify as references ten (10) lawyers or judges who are familiar with your competence and qualifications in the specialty. Insofar as possible, select references who are board certified specialists in your area of specialty or substantially involved in the area as that term is defined in the certification standards. At least two of your references must be so qualified. You may not use as references your partners or associates, relatives by blood or marriage, or persons with whom you have continuing commercial relationships. All references must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in North Carolina. Applicants for recertification in bankruptcy law may not use a bankruptcy judge as a reference. You may notify your peer references that you have listed them. 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 on the following page.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
name (type or print) address
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
name address

**Please do not list current committee members as references.**

**NC State Bar Specialty Committees as of May 1, 2009:**

**Bankruptcy Committee**

Joseph W. Grier III  
Bruce F. Jobe  
Christine L. Myatt  
Robert M. Pitts  
Robert E. Price Jr.  
Kevin L. Sink  
John H. Small

**Criminal Law Committee**

Janna D. Allison  
Ames C. Chamberlin  
Lisa S. Costner  
J. Clark Fischer  
Robert E. Hensley  
Jan E. Pritchett  
H. Monroe Whitesides

**Elder Law Committee**

Laurence S. Graham  
A. Frank Johns  
Diana A. Johnston  
B. Bailey Liipfert III  
Robert A. Mason  
Kate Mewhinney  
Dennis J. Toman

**Estate Planning Committee**

Charlie D. Brown  
Sandra M. Clark  
Stuart B. Dorsett  
Debra L. Foster  
Ann E. Hanks  
Larry H. Rocamora  
Elizabeth N. Sumner

**Family Law**

Charles W. Coltrane  
Michael W. Drye  
Jill S. Jackson  
Jon B. Kurtz  
Barbara R. Morgenstern  
Robert A. Ponton  
Tate K. Sterrett

**Immigration Committee**

Jorgelina E. Araneda  
Lisa R. Brenman  
Laura D. Burton  
C. Lynn Calder  
Elizabeth R. Edwards  
Hans C. Linnartz  
David J. Long

**Real Property Committee**

Barbara R. Christy  
Kimberly R. Coward  
David R. Dorton  
Jeff Dunham  
Nancy S. Ferguson  
L. Holden Reaves  
Terry M. Taylor

**Social Security Disability Committee**

Charles T. Hall  
Mason Hogan  
J. Michael Duncan  
Deborah F. Maury  
Susan O'Malley  
Brian L. Peterson  
George C. Piemonte

**Workers' Compensation Committee**

Shannon W. Beach  
Buxton S. Copeland  
Worth T. Haithcock  
Jack S. Holmes  
Valerie A. Johnson  
Lousie C. Root  
Leslie O. Wickham Jr.

## **2009 Substantial Involvement Information**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Experience During Five Years Prior to Application:**

Briefly describe your practice during each of the preceding five (5) years (years run from July 1 to June 30).  
Indicate the estimated number of hours devoted to the specialty practice area in each year.

2004-05: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2005-06: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2006-07: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2007-08: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2008-09: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_