

## **Applications Due July 31 for Education Law Board Certification**

**Now is your chance to be part of the nation's inaugural class of board certified education lawyers.**

By your involvement in The Florida Bar Education Law Standing Committee, you may be well suited for board certification in [education law](#), the first specialty of its kind in the U.S. Certified attorneys are the only Florida lawyers allowed to identify or advertise themselves as specialists or experts or to use "B.C.S." to indicate board certified specialist.

### **What Are the Standards for Education Law Certification?**

Education law board certification is for lawyers who deal with the legal rights, responsibilities, procedures, and practices of educational institutions, students, personnel employed by or on behalf of educational institutions and the guardians and parents of students participating in education.

#### **Education law certification applicants must:**

- have been engaged in the practice of education law for at least five years immediately preceding the date of application.
- be members in good standing of any U.S. state or District of Columbia bar association for at least five years preceding application.
- demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of education law during at least three of the five years immediately preceding the date of application.
- demonstrate broad, substantial, practical experience in education law.
- undergo peer review by attorneys and judges.
- complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in education law during the three-year period immediately preceding the date of application.
- pass a rigorous examination.

Education law certification applicants who demonstrate substantial involvement in education law for a minimum of 20 years and who otherwise fulfill the standards are exempt from the examination. The exemption is only applicable to those applicants who apply within the first two application filing periods from the effective date of the standards.

### **Why Become Certified?**

- Board certification evaluates attorneys' special knowledge, skills and proficiency in various areas of law and professionalism and ethics in practice.
- Board certification enables the public, institutional and corporate clients to easily identify legal specialists and objectively measure the levels of their experience, education and reputation among their peers and the judiciary.
- Board certification in Florida is growing: Applications for 2010 board certification are up nearly 10 percent.
- Florida's board certification program offers the greatest number of state-approved specialties in the nation and is considered a leader in legal specialization.
- Certification enhances the stature of a law firm or office, as tangibly demonstrated by lower malpractice insurance rates for certified lawyers.

**Be among the only Florida lawyers known as experts and specialists. If you're ready for the challenge, applications for board certification in education law must be filed by July 31, 2010, for the March 2011 exam.**

If education law is not your practice area, you may wish to review information on Florida's other 23 certification areas. You can find the standards, test specifications, applications and filing deadlines online at [FloridaBar.org/certification](https://www.floridabar.org/certification), along with a directory of other lawyers who have taken this significant step in their professional careers.