

Why does the State Bar certify legal specialists?

- » To help the public identify attorneys who have demonstrated proficiency in specialized fields of law.
- » To encourage the maintenance and improvement of attorney competence in specialized fields of law.

What does it mean when an attorney is a certified specialist?

A certified specialist is more than just an attorney who practices in a particular area of law. A California attorney who is certified by the State Bar as a Family Law specialist must have:

- » Taken and passed a written examination in Family Law;
- » Demonstrated a high level of experience in Family Law;
- » Fulfilled ongoing education requirements; and
- » Been favorably evaluated by other attorneys and judges familiar with her or his work.

Family law is complex and constantly changing – a certified specialist stays current with the law.

What you do now affects your future. Hire a certified specialist.

What can a Family Law certified specialist do for you?

- » Make certain marital settlement agreements and pre – or post-nuptial agreements are properly prepared.
- » Identify tax issues which may affect the distribution of marital property and the payment of child, spousal or family support.
- » Help you effectively deal with complex legal issues involving community property laws.
- » Negotiate or mediate the difficult and emotional issues relating to legal separation, dissolution or marriage and child custody.
- » Protect clients who need restraining orders for domestic violence;
- » Handle matter relating to modification of child custody, spousal support or child support.
- » Offer a collaborative process enabling clients to resolve their issues without court intervention.

Legal Specialization

In what other fields of law are attorneys certified by the State Bar?

- » Admiralty & Maritime Law
- » Appellate Law
- » Bankruptcy Law
- » Criminal Law
- » Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law
- » Family Law
- » Franchise & Distribution Law
- » Immigration & Nationality Law
- » Legal Malpractice Law
- » Taxation Law
- » Workers' Compensation Law

How can I find a Certified Specialist?

- » To search for certified specialists visit <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneys/legal-specialization> and choose Specialist Search or call 415-538-2120.

Contact:

The State Bar of California
Legal Specialization
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

Phone: 415-538-2120

Fax: 415-538-2180

Email: legalspec@calbar.ca.gov