

Applications Due July 31 for Adoption Law Board Certification

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

By your involvement in The Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section, you may be well suited for board certification in [adoption 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.

Adoption law certification is for lawyers who deal with complexities and legalities – both prior to and after placement of a child for adoption – in interstate and intrastate adoption placements and civil controversies arising from termination of biological parents' parental rights.

Adoption law board certification applicants must:

- have at least five years of law practice, of which at least 50 percent has been spent in active participation in adoption law.
- demonstrate substantial experience in adoption law, including substantial involvement in at least 50 adoption placements or 15 contested adoption proceedings or appeals during the five-year period immediately preceding application.
- undergo peer review by attorneys and judges.
- complete 30 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in adoption law during the three-year period immediately preceding the date of application.
- pass a rigorous examination.

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 their levels of 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 adoption law must be filed by July 31, 2010, for the March 2011 exam.

If adoption 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, along with a directory of other lawyers who have taken this significant step in their professional careers.