



**CONFIDENTIAL BEFORE THE
BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION**

**APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION
IN FAMILY LAW**

Revised January 8, 2020

Name	
Bar Number	
Firm	
Street and/or PO Box Address	
City	
State/Zip	
Telephone	
Email	
Date of Submission	

Please submit your application:

PDF version – by email to: specialization@staff.azbar.org

NOTE:

A \$300 application fee, payable to the State Bar of Arizona, is to be submitted with a copy of the first page of your application to:

Board of Legal Specialization
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266

For applications submitted AFTER August 1 – an additional \$100 late fee is assessed. Applications received after October 1 will not be accepted.

I. On a separate sheet, please provide the following information:

- A. Record of Discipline.** A discipline check will be conducted on every applicant. Please list any disciplinary actions taken against you in any state, jurisdiction, or organization. In addition, list all instances of discipline in which the sanction imposed was censure or greater, or an informal reprimand in which the disciplinary record was public, pursuant to Rule 70, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. A record of discipline or failure to disclose the same may constitute grounds for denial of an application for certification.
- B. Malpractice Actions.** List all malpractice claims asserted during your preceding term of certification in which your action or inaction is alleged to have constituted malpractice, if such claim is presently pending in a court case, or has been asserted but not yet filed as a court case, or was settled with or without court action by payment of a settlement in excess of \$5,000.00, or resulted in a judgment in excess of \$5,000.00. Further, should any malpractice proceedings arise during the pendency of this application, you must supplement this application with the information required herein for the newly arisen matter.
- C. Judicial Sanctions.** List all sanctions imposed on you by any court during the preceding period of certification. Further, should any sanctions be imposed during the pendency of this application, you must supplement this application with the information regarding the sanction imposed.
- D. Employment History.** In chronological order, beginning with your most recent employment, list a complete statement of your employment during the preceding five-year term of certification. Include the dates of employment, employer's name and address, and a brief summary of the nature of the work performed.
- E. References.** List the names, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses of all attorneys who have been involved in Family Law matters which you have handled and all judges or court commissioners before whom you have practiced during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding this application. It is not necessary to specify case numbers, names of parties, or types of Family Law matters. Requests for written evaluations similar to those requested regarding initial applicants shall be sent to at least two (2) of the judges and five (5) of the attorneys listed by the applicant, not including any members of the BLS or FLAC. Do not list lawyers serving on the *Board of Legal Specialization* or on the *Family Law Advisory Commission* as references. A list of all lawyers serving in these capacities can be found at:

<https://www.azbar.org/for-lawyers/communities/committees/board-of-legal-specialization/>

Statements of references shall be confidential and privileged from disclosure, except to the applicant upon request.

- F. Substantial Involvement in Family Law.** Pursuant to the Standards for Certification of Lawyers Specializing in Family Law, applicants for recertification must demonstrate substantial involvement in the field of family law during the preceding five (5) year term of certification. A specialist certified in Family Law prior to January 1, 2011, will be deemed to have had substantial involvement in Family Law during the period of specialization if an amount of his or her practice is equal to at least 50% of a full-time practice of Family Law. A specialist who was initially certified in Family Law subsequent to January 1, 2011, will be deemed to have had substantial involvement in Family Law during the period of specialization if an amount of his or her practice is equal to at least 70% of a full-time practice consisting of Family Law. By signing this application for recertification, the applicant avows that he or she has engaged in the full-time practice of law for the preceding five years and that he/she has devoted at least 50% (or 70% if certified after January 2, 2011) of said full-time practice to family law.
- G. Continuing Legal Education Requirements.** Applicants for recertification shall comply with the Continuing Legal Education requirements for attorneys certified as Family Law Specialists

in each of the preceding five (5) years of his/her term of certification. Specifically, they shall have completed a minimum of 12 hours per year in the field of Family Law, in one or more “advanced/specialist” level seminars, in addition to three hours per year of professional responsibility (ethics). Credit for other educational activities may be granted by the BLS as specified in the Rules and Regulations of the BLS, Section VIII.B. By signing this application for recertification, the applicant avows that he or she has complied with said requirements.

If you are or were exempt from State Bar CLE requirements in any or all of the five (5) preceding years, please indicate so in a separate statement.

If you are not exempt, please provide copies of your MCLE affidavits (last five educational years only), clearly indicating on the affidavit (circle, underline, asterisk, etc.) those seminars/classes in the area of specialization. If you have not filed your affidavit for the current educational year, please print a copy of the tracking page clearly indicating the advanced level events in the area of specialization.

H. Waiver. The FLAC may recommend waiver of any requirement(s) listed in the Standards for Recertification of Lawyers Specializing in Family Law, if circumstances so warrant. Should you wish to request a waiver of a requirement, please identify the requirement to be waived and provide a detailed explanation of all the facts and circumstances which you believe justify waiving said requirement(s).

I. Practice or Family Law Service Requirements. For recertification, the applicant must demonstrate fulfillment of the requirements of either “Track 1” or “Track 2” as defined below. Such demonstration shall include sufficient detail, including categories, dates, and case names, as is necessary to prove fulfillment of the requirements of either “Track 1” or “Track 2.”

1. Track 1: With the application, the specialist shall submit a listing of at least fifteen (15) contested evidentiary hearings (as defined in section II(B)(3)(a), above) in which he or she served as lead counsel and one or more issues were decided by the court and a listing of at least twenty-five (25) *negotiated* settlement agreements, postnuptial or prenuptial agreements, paternity agreements or stipulated decrees in which he or she was lead counsel during the immediately preceding five-year period of certification. The hearings and agreements must have occurred after the date of the specialist’s most recent Application for Initial Certification or, in the case of a specialist who has previously been recertified, must have occurred after the date of his or her most recent application for recertification.

2. Track 2: With the application, the specialist shall submit a listing reflecting the specialist has completed at least fifty (50) hours of Family Law Service per year which, over the immediately preceding period of specialization, must have included service in at least three (3) of the categories specified below. (The phrase “Family Law service” is not intended to imply that the applicant should not be compensated, where appropriate. For example, an attorney likely would not be compensated for serving on a Bar committee but likely would be compensated for serving as an expert witness.)

(a) Serving as a Family Law judge pro tempore;

(b) Organizing, or preparing materials for and speaking at, Family Law seminars sponsored by the State Bar or a county Bar or a court or another recognized Family Law organization such as the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts or the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, or another recognized provider of continuing legal education;

(c) Teaching or lecturing regarding Family Law at a law school or a college or university;

- (d) Lecturing regarding Family Law to a community organization;
- (e) Serving as an officer or executive council member of the Family Law Section of the State Bar or a county Bar association or the chair or a member of the FLAC, or a state or national officer of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts or of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers or of the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association, or as the chair or a member of a Bar or court committee related to Family Law;
- (f) Serving as a child's attorney, best interest attorney, parenting coordinator, or court appointed advisor in a Family Law matter;
- (g) Serving as a mediator, arbitrator, or Rule 72 special master in a Family Law matter;
- (h) Submitting a written report or being deposed or testifying in court or attending mediation or negotiation as an expert or expert witness on a topic of Family Law;
- (i) Representing a litigant pro bono in a Family Law matter, or representing a litigant in a Family Law matter at a reduced fee through a reduced fee panel of a Bar association;
- (j) Writing and publishing an article or a book regarding Family Law;
- (k) Any other activity that the FLAC approves as constituting Family Law service that should be credited toward this requirement.

APPLICATION AGREEMENT

II. Read and initial each of the following statements and sign below:

- a. _____ I agree to abide by all Rules and Regulations of the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization as amended from time to time, to pay all fees required by the Board of Legal Specialization as due, and to furnish to the board such information as may be required from time to time to ascertain my entitlement to certification.
- b. _____ I certify that I am an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Arizona and that I continue to engage in legal service (as defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization) on an annual basis equivalent to at least 50% of a full-time practice.
- c. _____ I annually devote not less than 50% (or 70% if certified after January 1, 2011) of a full-time practice to family law, as defined in the Standards for Certification for Lawyers Specializing in Family Law.
- d. _____ I certify that I have complied with the Continuing legal education requirements for attorneys certified as Family Law Specialists in each of the preceding five years of my term of certification.
- e. _____ Pursuant to Rule 70, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., I hereby waive confidentiality of any disciplinary proceeding initiated against me by the State Bar of Arizona after January 1, 1992, or which may be initiated against me during the pendency of my application. I understand and agree, to the extent permitted under Rule 70, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., that my disciplinary records may be requested from the Lawyer Regulations Records Manager (or representative) or Disciplinary Clerk. Further, if any formal matters are pending against me, or any develop, I will advise the Board.
- f. _____ I agree to advise the Board of Legal Specialization, from the date of filing this current application throughout the next approved five-year period of certification, of any disciplinary action taken against me in any state, jurisdiction, or organization. I will advise of all instances of discipline in which the sanction imposed was censure or greater, or an informal reprimand in which the disciplinary record was public.
- g. _____ I authorize all persons, firms, officers, corporations, organizations, associations (including Bar Associations of other jurisdictions), State or Federal agencies and institutions to furnish to the Board of Legal Specialization or any of its authorized representatives, all relevant documents, records or other information that may be requested in the investigation of this application or in any investigation of my continuing satisfaction of the Standards for Certification.
- h. _____ I authorize the Board of Legal Specialization to consult with any persons who may have information relating to my professional qualification, credentials or character, ethics, behavior, or any other matter reasonably bearing on the criteria for initial and continued certification. I further agree that all information received by the Board shall be treated confidentially and that I have no right of access to information received by the Board from third parties. I specifically waive any right to review any reference or other evaluations made to the Board, whether solicited by me or the Board. In addition, I agree not to seek discovery of such references and evaluations, formally or informally, in any legal proceeding or otherwise.
- i. _____ I release, discharge and exonerate the State Bar of Arizona, its officers, directors, staff, agents, employees and representatives, and any person furnishing information and evaluations to the Board of Legal Specialization, from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising from the investigation and evaluation of my application or my continued satisfaction of the Standards for Certification.
- j. _____ I authorize the Board of Legal Specialization to release my application, if requested, to a professional attorney organization to which I have applied for membership, or to which I am being nominated for membership. I understand the Board will not release the peer review forms, investigation, or work product thereof.

I certify my application is true or true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that failure to make a truthful disclosure of any material fact or item of information required may result in the denial of my application, revocation of my certificate of specialization if granted, or disciplinary action by the State Bar of Arizona.

Signature of Applicant

Date