

WHAT IS AN
ESTATE PLANNING
& PROBATE LAW
BOARD CERTIFIED
ATTORNEY?



TEXAS BOARD OF
LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

The Texas Board of Legal Specialization was created by, and operates under the authority of, the Supreme Court of Texas. Its members are appointed by the President of the State Bar of Texas.

The Board administers the program by which an attorney may earn a certificate of special competence in a particular field of law. The program is voluntary and is funded entirely by fees imposed on participating attorneys.

For more information please write to:

**Texas Board of Legal Specilization
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, Texas 78711-2487**

or call

**(512) 463-1454
(800) 204-2222 ext. 1454
Fax (512) 477-7719**

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An attorney who is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legalization in Estate Planning and Probate Law must have counseled others on various estate matters, such as gifts, life insurance, trusts, and business arrangements and agreements. The attorney must also have prepared estate documents such as wills and trusts and have handled estate administration matters such as guardianships and the probate of wills. Finally, the attorney must have familiarity with the tax laws applicable to individuals, estates, and trusts.

Initial certification is valid for a period of five years. To remain certified, an attorney must apply for recertification every five years and meet practice, peer review and continuing legal education requirements for the specialty field.

To become Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law, an attorney must have:

- Been licensed to practice law for at least five years;
- Devoted a required percentage of practice to estate planning and probate law for at least three years;
- Handled a wide variety of estate planning and probate law matters to demonstrate experience and involvement;
- Attended estate planning and probate law continuing education seminars regularly to keep legal training up to date;
- Been evaluated by fellow lawyers and judges;
- Passed a day-long written examination.

The consumer can identify an Estate Planning and Probate Law Board Certified attorney in one of many ways. An Estate Planning and Probate Law Board Certified attorney is entitled to indicate certification on business cards and letterhead by stating "Board Certified - Estate Planning and Probate Law - Texas Board of Legal Specialization." The attorney may also display the Certificate of Special Competence awarded by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and list the certification in legal directories and telephone listings under "Attorneys - Board Certified."

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