

## **Petition in Support of Adding Arbitration and Litigation as a Subspecialty Track within the Standards for International Law Board Certification**

The International Law Certification Committee proposes to establish a subspecialty track within the International Law Certification Standards for **Arbitration and Litigation** as an amendment to Chapter 6-21, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Board certification recognizes attorneys' special knowledge, skills and proficiency in specific areas of law and professionalism and ethics in practice. Certified attorneys are the only lawyers allowed to identify or advertise themselves as "Florida Bar Board Certified," experts or specialists, and use the letters B.C.S for Board Certified Specialist. Established as a voluntary program by the Supreme Court of Florida, board certification helps consumers identify legal specialists. Certification is the highest level of evaluation by The Florida Bar of the competency, experience, and professionalism of attorneys in the areas of law approved for certification.

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meets standards prescribed by the Florida Supreme Court may become board certified. Minimum requirements for certification are:

- Five years in the practice of law;
- Substantial involvement in the field of law for which certification is sought;
- Passage of an examination;
- Satisfactory peer review as to competence in the specialty field as well as character, ethics and reputation for professionalism in the practice of law; and,
- Satisfaction of a minimum of 10 hours of CLE in the specific area per year.

Using the minimum standards above as a guide, board certification in International Law Arbitration and Litigation has been preliminarily defined as: *a litigation or arbitration practice dealing with issues, problems, or disputes arising from any and all aspects of the relations between or among states and international organizations as well as the relations between or among national of different countries, or between a state and a national of another state.* Preliminary recommendations as to the other requirements will include:

- Substantial involvement of *50% or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of international litigation and arbitration played a significant role and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation;*
- A minimum of *60 hours of accredited certification CLE in International Law during the 3 years immediately preceding application for initial qualification and 75 hours of accredited certification in International Law during the 5 year period preceding recertification;*
- Peer review consisting of the initial submission of names of *5 attorneys/arbitrators or judges who can attest to the applicant's special competence and substantial involvement, as well as the applicant's character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism; and,*
- Passage of an examination designed to *demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, and proficiency in international litigation and arbitration to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.*

The fees for participation are set at:

- \$250 -- Application
- \$150 -- Exam (Laptop testing optional for \$60 surcharge)
- \$150 -- Annual Fee (for each year except the 5th year when renewal occurs)
- \$250 -- Renewal Fee (every 5th year)

I have read the foregoing information and by my signature below, I affirm that I endorse the efforts of the International Law Certification Committee and that I am now, or expect to be, qualified by the projected implementation date in the fall of 2013, and that it is my intent to apply for certification in International Law Arbitration and Litigation if approved by The Florida Bar's Board of Governors.

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Signature / Bar Member Number

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Date

Please return completed petition to:

Dawna G. Bicknell, Director  
Legal Specialization & Education  
The Florida Bar  
651 E. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Or via email:

[dbicknell@flabar.org](mailto:dbicknell@flabar.org)