



The State Bar
of California

LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-538-2120



Whether your situation is simple or complex, you should consider hiring an attorney who specializes in Appellate Law. Certified legal specialists are committed to maintaining their proficiency through ongoing practice and continuing education.

LEGAL SPECIALIZATION



What can a
**Appellate Law
Certified Specialist**
do for you?

Need a Certified Specialist?

Use our certified specialist search tool:
www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneysearch

calbar.ca.gov/legalspec
Phone: 415-538-2120

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—they've gone above and beyond to demonstrate proficiency. A California attorney who is certified by the State Bar as an Appellate Law specialist must have:

- ✓ Passed a comprehensive written examination in Appellate Law;
- ✓ Demonstrated extensive and varied experience in Appellate Law;
- ✓ Completed additional and ongoing education requirements; and
- ✓ Been favorably evaluated by other attorneys and judges familiar with their work.

Appellate courts are your last chance to overturn a bad result or defend a righteous victory.

What can an Appellate Law certified specialist do for you?

- ✓ Strategize, draft legal pleadings, manage motions, and prepare jury instructions. Success in appeals often hinges on trial court outcomes. Establishing a strong appellate record is key to securing a final victory.
- ✓ Assess writ petitions and appeals. Determining when there's a high chance of improving the outcome—and when it's unlikely—helps conserve resources and uphold credibility.
- ✓ Handle post-trial motions and stays. Quick action is crucial after a verdict or intended decision.
- ✓ Prepare briefs and petitions. Crafting written arguments and selecting key issues requires a different skill set than presenting before a jury.
- ✓ If necessary, make appropriate filings following an appellate decision.

Appellate law is complex and constantly changing – **certified specialists meet higher standards to stay current with the law and best**



LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

In what 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 find a certified specialist, please visit the Attorney Search webpage, select the Certified Specialists link, and use the drop down to search by certified legal specialty: www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneysearch

Contact:

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