

September 12, 2022

To All LSBA Bankruptcy Section Members:

Thank you for being a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section.

Have you considered becoming a Board Certified Bankruptcy Law Specialist? If not, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization ("LBSL") and the LBSL Bankruptcy Law Advisory Commission strongly encourage you to consider it. One reason you may want to consider becoming board certified is that bankruptcy judges may consider board certification when awarding "reasonable compensation," pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §330(a)(3).

There are several articles on the American Board of Certification's website that set forth the pros of becoming board certified. A good place to start is: "Why Become a Board Certified Attorney?" <https://www.abworld.org/why-become-board-certified-attorney>

Next, follow-up with: "Why Every Young Lawyer Should Strive for Board Certification," <https://abi-abc.s3.amazonaws.com/journal-articles/strive-for-certification.pdf>

And finish with an article from the ABI Journal: "ABC Update: The Value of Board Certification: Views from the Bench," https://abi-abc.s3.amazonaws.com/journal-articles/ABC_04-18.pdf

In Louisiana, eligible bankruptcy attorneys first become certified in either Business Bankruptcy Law or Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification ("ABC") and then apply for certification by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization ("LBSL").

How do you get started?

Here are the step-by-step details to become ABC certified:

<https://www.abworld.org/how-become-certified>

If you are a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute ("ABI"), you can take the exam at one of its conferences, or you can request that an ABC representative come to your office to proctor your exam for an additional fee of \$200. The ABC will arrange for an exam administrator to arrive at your office with the exam. If you do not wish to take the exam in your office, you may select another professional, business location.

1. The first step is to review the **Rules & Regulations** (<https://www.abworld.org/rules>) of the ABC to ascertain your eligibility.
2. If you believe you are eligible, fill out the **Short Form Application**

(<https://www.abcworld.org/how-become-certified>) and send it to the ABC along with payment of the appropriate non-refundable application fee.

3. Once the short form and application fees are submitted, an attorney is eligible to sit for the certification examination. This is true even if the Long Form Application has not been completed. Read more on Exam Information [here](https://www.abcworld.org/exam) (<https://www.abcworld.org/exam>).
4. **ABC Prep Course.** The ABC has a video prep course that can be helpful when studying for the exam. The course is maintained by the ABI, including the payment. Once registration has been initiated for this course, the ABC is no longer involved until the scheduling for the actual exam. <https://www.abi.org/abcprep>

The ABC exams are designed to draw on knowledge gained through experience and therefore a great deal of preparation should not be necessary for an attorney who meets the experience and substantial involvement requirements for certification. Study Guides and Exams can be found under Exam information - <https://www.abcworld.org/exam>

The pass rate on the exam tends to range between 75-80%.

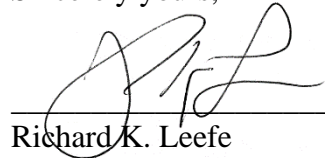
Each applicant seeking to obtain certification from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization in the areas of Business Bankruptcy Law and/or Consumer Bankruptcy Law must successfully obtain certification as a specialist in the area of Business Bankruptcy Law and/or Consumer Bankruptcy Law from the ABC. Here is a link to the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization website: <https://www.lsba.org/Specialization/>.

Once you are ABC certified, contact Specialization Director Mary Ann Wegmann at (504) 619-0128 or via email at maryann.wegmann@lsba.org for an application for certification with the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (not accessible on the website). You may access the Bankruptcy Law Standards on the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization website through this link: <https://www.lsba.org/Specialization/BusinessBankruptcy.aspx?Area=Standards>.

So what are you waiting for? Get started with your certification process today!

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Mary Ann Wegmann or the Executive Director at the American Board of Certification (319-365-2222 or director@abcworld.org).

Sincerely yours,



Richard K. Leefe
2022-2023 Chair
Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization



E. Stewart Spielman
2022-2023 Chair
Bankruptcy Law Advisory Commission
Business Bankruptcy Law Specialist