## SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

## **ORDER**

Acting in accordance with Article V, Sections 1 and 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the inherent power of this Court, and Section 4.1(A) of the Plan of Legal Specialization reserving to this Court the sole power of amendment to the Plan of Legal Specialization, and considering the need to amend the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization,

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. Section 8.4 of the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization is hereby amended to read as follows:
  - 8.4 Requirements for maintaining certification are:
    - A. A lawyer who is an active member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association.
    - B. Continuous actual practice of law on a full-time basis including holding a judicial or academic position in, or with jurisdiction over, that field of specialty certification.
    - C. A satisfactory showing, as determined by the Board, after advice from the appropriate advisory commission, of a substantial involvement in the particular field of law for which certification is sought for such reasonable period of time immediately preceding certification.
    - D. A satisfactory showing, as determined by the Board after advice from the appropriate advisory commission, of such education experience in the particular field of law for which certification is sought.
    - E. A satisfactory showing of professional liability insurance from a company reasonably acceptable to the Board and in such amount as may be required by the Board, after advice from the appropriate advisory commission, for the particular field of law for which certification is sought. The Board shall provide for annual certification and waiver for full-time government attorneys with no private law practice.
    - F. Payment of any fee required by the Board.
- 2. Section 9.2 of the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization is hereby amended to read as follows:
  - 9.2 Each advisory commission may recommend, and the Board may establish additional requirements and safeguards to insure the continued proficiency of any holder of a certificate of special competence, but recertification shall be required at least every five (5) years under the following minimum standards:

- A. A lawyer who is an active member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association.
- B. Maintains a continuous actual practice of law on a full time basis including holding a judicial or academic position in, or with jurisdiction over, that field of specialty certification.
- C. A satisfactory showing, as determined by the Board with the advice of the appropriate advisory commission, of a substantial involvement in the particular field of law for which certification was granted, during the period of certification.
- D. A satisfactory showing, as determined by the Board after advice from the appropriate advisory commission, of such continuing educational experience in the field of law for which certification was granted, during the period of certification.
- E. The payment of any fee prescribed by the Board.
- F. A satisfactory showing of professional liability insurance from a company reasonably acceptable to the Board and in such amount as may be required by the Board, after advice from the appropriate advisory commission, for the particular field of law for which certification was granted, during the period of certification. The Board shall provide for annual certification and waiver for full-time government attorneys with no private law practice.
- 3. Section 10 of the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization is hereby amended to read as follows:

## SECTION 10. SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION DESIGNATION

- 10.1 "Active" designation is a Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization certified specialist who has met and maintains the requirements for board certification as defined in the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization, the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization and the relevant Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization Specialization Standards.
- 10.2 "Inactive" designation is a Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization certified specialist who, on approval from the Board, is granted limited relief from the requirements for maintaining his or her specialization certification. A specialist who is granted the Inactive designation by the Board shall be exempt from the requirements of 8.4 B and C of the Plan during the Inactive designation period.
- 10.3 "Senior" designation is a Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization certified specialist who, on approval from the Board, no longer practices law on a full time basis, wishes to maintain his or her specialization certification and has met the requirements for such designation as set forth in the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. A specialist who is granted the Senior designation by the Board shall be exempt from the requirement of 8.4 B of the Plan.
- 10.4 Upon application to the Board, any specialist with an active certification when taking office as a judge that is prohibited from practicing law shall be granted an indefinite inactive certification designation for his or her continuation in judicial office. A judge in inactive certification designation pursuant to this Section shall not be required to submit periodic recertification applications or re-take the exam for their certification and shall be exempt from all requirements of Section 8.4 and 9.2 during the entire inactive designation period. After leaving judicial office a judge with an inactive certification designation shall be entitled to reinstatement to an active designation upon filing an application for recertification with the board within one year of leaving office. Judicial service shall be treated the same as an active legal practice in the same field of

specialization for the purposes of reinstatement and the requirements of this Plan shall apply to a specialist upon reinstatement to an active designation.

This rule change shall become effective upon signing, and shall remain in full force and effect thereafter, until amended or changed through future orders of this Court.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2025

FOR THE COURT:

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA A TRUE COPY OF DOCUMENTS AS ME APPLARS IN OUR RECORDS

Theresa McCarthy Second Deputy Clerk of Court