

The Value of ABC Certification

Why should attorneys become board-certified? Increased marketing opportunities, greater visibility and higher professional fee application rates are just a few of the reasons.

Often times, when discussing the American Board of Certification (ABC) with my colleagues and other bankruptcy attorneys, I am asked: "Why should I apply for board certification? What is the benefit to me and my practice?"

My responses are quite simple. Bankruptcy and creditors' rights law require highly specialized skills. Board certification assists the general public and businesspersons in identifying attorneys who have the skills and have taken the extra time and effort to meet the various standards of the ABC.

Board certification presents greater opportunities for marketing and referrals from attorneys throughout the United States and internationally. Attorneys, once board-certified, can easily market that certification and be more effective in their advertising. Not only does board certification provide one with an approved standing and prestige among our peers, it also improves one's credentials when serving as an expert witness.

Also, hourly rates awarded by bankruptcy courts in professional fee applications have been increased as a result of board certification.

The ABC provides resources to the general public by way of its Web site, which provides for searches of bankruptcy-certified attorneys throughout the United States and a printed directory of all certified attorneys. The question from my non-certified colleagues should be not "Why should I become board-certified?" But rather, "How can I afford not to be board-certified?" ●



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Recently Certified Attorneys

The ABC congratulates the following attorneys for their recent certification:

BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY

David A. Geiger

Geiger Law, LLC
Atlanta, Ga.

Michael B. Schaedle

Blank Rome LLP
Philadelphia, Penn.

Lori V. Vaughan

Trenam Kemker
Tampa, Fla.

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY

David A. Akintimoye

Law Office of David A. Akintimoye
Moreno Valley, Calif.

Richard M. Dauval

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St. Petersburg, Fla.

For more information and testimonials about to the benefits of board certification, please go to the ABC Web site, www.abcworld.org.