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The Value of ABC Certification

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When discussing the American Board of Certification (ABC) with colleagues and other bankruptcy attorneys, I am often 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 business persons in identifying attorneys who have the skills and have taken the extra time and effort to meet the ABC's standards.



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Board certification presents greater opportunities for marketing and referrals from attorneys throughout the U.S. and internationally. Once board certified, attorneys can easily market that certification and be more effective in their advertising.

About the Author

Walter Greenhalgh is a managing partner at Duane Morris LLP in Newark, N.J.

Not only does board certification provide one with an approved standing and prestige among his or her peers, but 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 website,

ABC Update

which provides listings of bankruptcy-certified attorneys throughout the U.S. and a directory of all certified attorneys. The question from my noncertified colleagues should not be, "Why should I become board certified?" but rather, "How can I afford not to be board certified?"

The ABC congratulates the following attorneys for their recent certification:

Business Bankruptcy

David A. Geiger
Geiger Law LLC; Atlanta

Michael B. Schaedle
Blank Rome LLP; Philadelphia

Lori V. Vaughan
Trenam Kemker; Tampa, Fla.

Consumer Bankruptcy

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

Richard M. Dauval
Leavengood & Nash; St. Petersburg, Fla. ■

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