



**CONFIDENTIAL BEFORE THE
BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION**

**APPLICATION FOR
RECERTIFICATION IN
CRIMINAL LAW**

Revised January 8, 2020

Name	
Bar Number	
Firm	
Street and/or PO Box Address	
City	
State/Zip	
Telephone	
Email	
Date of Submission	

Please submit your application:

PDF version – by email to: specialization@staff.azbar.org

NOTE:

A \$300 application fee, payable to the State Bar of Arizona, is to be submitted with a copy of the first page of your application to:

Board of Legal Specialization
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266

For applications submitted AFTER August 1 - an additional \$75 late fee is assessed.

I. **Provide the information requested in paragraphs A through E below.**

Begin a new page for each section. Unless otherwise noted, you may use a style format of your choice, but your application may not be handwritten, and all pages are to be single sided. Identify the start of each section with your name or bar number, and the section identification.

A. Record of Discipline. A discipline check will be conducted on every applicant. Since the date of your last application for certification, list any disciplinary actions taken against you in any state, jurisdiction, or organization. In addition, list all instances of discipline in which the sanction imposed was censure or greater, or an informal reprimand in which the disciplinary record was public, pursuant to Rule 70, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. If applicable, also list any instances in which you have been the subject of a Rule 32 proceeding. Include dates and a brief summary of the incidents. A record of discipline or failure to disclose the same may constitute grounds for denial of an application.

B. Employment History. In chronological order, beginning with your most recent employment, list a complete statement of your employment during the last five years. Include the dates of employment, employer's name and address, and a brief summary of the nature of the work performed.

C. References. List the names, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses of five attorneys who practice in criminal law and/or judges before whom you have appeared, familiar with your practice, and not including current partners or associates. You may not use as references the members of the Board of Legal Specialization or the Criminal Law Advisory Commission. A list of the members serving in these capacities can be found at <https://www.azbar.org/for-lawyers/communities/committees/board-of-legal-specialization/>

In addition to the references you provide, the Criminal Law Advisory Commission will also contact other individuals with respect to your qualifications. All references will be requested to provide written comments regarding your knowledge, skill, thoroughness, preparation, effectiveness and judgment in criminal law as well as your ethics and professionalism. Statements of references shall be confidential and privileged from disclosure, except to the applicant upon request.

The Standards for Certification require that an applicant demonstrate a high degree of honesty, integrity and professionalism and meet high ethical standards in compliance with, and as defined by, the Lawyer's Creed of Professionalism of the State Bar of Arizona as well as the Rules of Professional Responsibility. These standards are higher than the bare minimum ethical and professionalism standards an attorney must meet to avoid disciplinary action or the threshold conduct that would warrant the filing of a bar complaint.

D. Substantial Involvement in Criminal Law. Pursuant to the Standards for Certification of Lawyers Specializing in Criminal Law, recertification applicants must demonstrate substantial involvement in the field of criminal law during the past five years.

For purposes hereof, substantial involvement shall mean the engagement by the applicant in legal service (as defined in Section I of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Legal Specialization) on an annual basis equivalent to at least 50% of a full-time practice, in the course of which applicant has devoted on an annual basis, time equivalent to approximately half or more of a fulltime practice to matters in which issues of criminal law are significant factors.

The applicant for recertification shall make a satisfactory showing of such involvement. To this end, the applicant shall provide a comprehensive list of the work and activity undertaken in the field of criminal law since the previous certification, to include:

- Title of Case
- Case Number:
- Court Where Tried:
- Nature of Offense:
- Date Trial Commenced:
- Date Submitted to Jury or Date Verdict Rendered:
- Judge:
- Name and Address of Opposing Counsel:
- Name of Co-Counsel (if applicable):
- Name of Co-Defendant Counsel (if applicable):

The information shall include a detailed description of any listed item or area which involved such a level of complexity of issues, or expenditure of time, or quality of result as to qualify that particular work or activity as extraordinary. Activities to be listed include, but are not limited to:

1. **Trials.** Indicate whether felony or misdemeanor, to a jury or to the court.
2. **Hearings.** Evidentiary or other hearings *that involved substantial contested issues of law or fact.* Non-exclusive examples of types of hearings which may qualify, if substantial contested issues are involved, include:
 - (1) Motion to Suppress;
 - (2) Motion in Limine;
 - (3) Federal Sentencing involving difficult Guideline Sentencing issues;
 - (4) State Sentencing (non-routine);
 - (5) Admissibility of scientific evidence under Frye/Daubert;
 - (6) Admissibility of eyewitness identification under Dessureault;
 - (7) Admissibility of “prior bad acts” evidence under Rule 404(b) of Criminal Procedure (federal or state).
3. **Activities.**
 - (1) Petition or answer filed in special action proceedings in the Arizona Court of Appeals or the Arizona Supreme Court;
 - (2) Appeal in the following courts in which briefs were filed by appellants and respondents: United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals, Arizona Supreme Court or Arizona Court of Appeals;
 - (3) Petition for post-conviction relief;
 - (4) Petition for habeas corpus relief under Section 2254 of Title 28, United States Code;
 - (5) Motion to vacate or set aside sentence under Section 2255 of Title 28, United States Code.
4. **Litigation with respect to grand jury proceedings.** (Do not disclose confidential information in the application).
 - (1) **Pre-indictment** representation, investigation and negotiations.
 - (2) **Independent counsel** investigations for business clients.
 - (3) **Compliance** representation.
 - (4) **Teaching.**
 - (5) **Additional criminal matters** that demonstrate continuing substantial involvement in criminal law.

E. Continuing Legal Education. Provide information regarding CLE you acquired with advanced level subject matter in the area of specialization in which you are seeking recertification. If you did not, indicate in a separate statement that this question is not applicable and provide an explanation.

If your answer is affirmative, provide copies of your MCLE affidavits (last five educational years only), clearly indicating on the affidavit (circle, underline, asterisk, etc.) those advanced level events in the area of specialization.

If you have not filed your affidavit for the current educational year, print a copy of the tracking page clearly indicating the advanced level events in the area of specialization.

THIS APPLICATION CONTINUES
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

II. APPLICATION AGREEMENT

Read and initial each of the following statements and sign below:

- a. _____ I agree to abide by all Rules and Regulations of the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization as amended from time to time, to pay all fees required by the Board of Legal Specialization as due, and to furnish to the Board such information as may be required from time to time to ascertain my entitlement to certification.
- b. _____ I certify that I am an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Arizona and that I continue to engage in legal service (as defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization) on an annual basis equivalent to at least 50% of a full-time practice.
- c. _____ I annually devote 50% or more of a fulltime practice to criminal law, as defined in the Standards for Certification for Lawyers Specializing in Criminal Law.
- d. _____ Pursuant to Rule 70, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., I hereby waive confidentiality of any disciplinary proceeding initiated against me by the State Bar of Arizona after January 1, 1992, or which may be initiated against me during the pendency of my application. I understand and agree, to the extent permitted under Rule 70, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., that my disciplinary records may be requested from the Lawyer Regulations Records Manager (or representative) or Disciplinary Clerk.
- e. _____ I agree to advise the Board of Legal Specialization, from the date of filing this current application throughout the next approved five-year period of certification, of any disciplinary action taken against me in any state, jurisdiction, or organization. I will advise of all instances of discipline in which the sanction imposed was censure or greater, or an informal reprimand in which the disciplinary record was public. If applicable, I will list any instances in which I have been the subject of a Rule 32 proceeding.
- f. _____ I authorize all persons, firms, officers, corporations, organizations, associations (including Bar Associations of other jurisdictions), State or Federal agencies and institutions to furnish to the Board of Legal Specialization or any of its authorized representatives, all relevant documents, records or other information that may be requested in the investigation of this application or in any investigation of my continuing satisfaction of the Standards for Certification.
- g. _____ I authorize the Board of Legal Specialization to consult with any persons who may have information relating to my professional qualifications, credentials or character, ethics, behavior, or any other matter reasonably bearing on the criteria for initial and continued certification. I further agree that all information received by the Board shall be treated confidentially and that I have no right of access to information received by the Board from third parties. I specifically waive any right to review any reference or other evaluations made to the Board, whether solicited by me or the Board. In addition, I agree not to seek discovery of such references and evaluations, formally or informally, in any legal proceeding or otherwise.
- h. _____ I release, discharge and exonerate the State Bar of Arizona, its officers, directors, staff, agents, employees and representatives, and any person furnishing information and evaluations to the Board of Legal Specialization, from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising from the investigation and evaluation of my application or my continued satisfaction of the Standards for Certification.
- i. _____ I authorize the Board of Legal Specialization to release my application, if requested, to a professional attorney organization to which I have applied for membership, or to which I am being nominated for membership. I understand the Board will not release the peer review forms, investigation, or work product thereof.

I certify my application is true or true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that failure to make a truthful disclosure of any material fact or item of information required may result in the denial of my application, revocation of my certificate of specialization if granted, or disciplinary action by the State Bar of Arizona.

Signature of Applicant

Date