

## Why does the State Bar certify legal specialists?

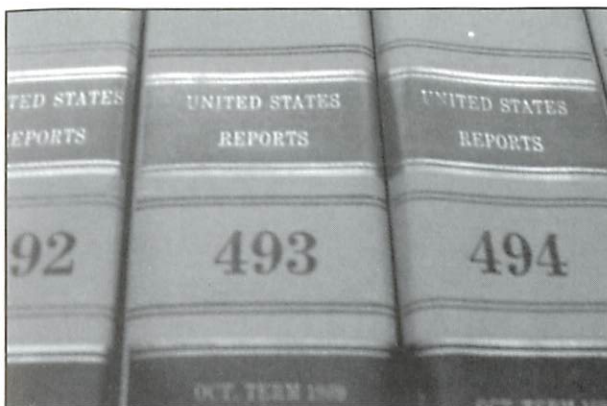
- To help the public identify attorneys who have demonstrated proficiency in specialized fields of law;
- To encourage the maintenance and improvement of attorney competence in specialized fields of law.

**Bankruptcy is far more than just filling out forms - what you do NOW affects your future.**

## What does it mean when an attorney is a Certified Specialist?

A Certified Specialist is more than just an attorney who specializes in a particular area of law. A California attorney who is certified by the State Bar as a Bankruptcy Law specialist must have:

- Taken and passed a written examination in Bankruptcy Law;
- Demonstrated a high level of experience in Bankruptcy Law;
- Fulfilled ongoing education requirements;
- Been favorably evaluated by other attorneys and judges familiar with her or his work.



## What can a certified Bankruptcy Law specialist do for you or your business?

- Analyze your situation and explain your legal rights and options;
- Take steps to stop lawsuits, garnishments, tax levies, foreclosures and other collection actions;
- Vigorously represent you through all stages of the bankruptcy process, including defending you against creditors;
- Assist you in reorganizing business and personal debt;
- Provide legal advice regarding your credit after bankruptcy;
- Help you get a fresh start;
- Protect your rights as a debtor or creditor in bankruptcy proceedings.

## In what other fields of law are attorneys certified by the State Bar?

- Admiralty and Maritime Law
- Appellate Law
- Criminal Law
- Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law
- Family Law
- Franchise and Distribution Law
- Immigration and Nationality Law
- Legal Malpractice Law
- Taxation Law
- Workers' Compensation Law

**A certified specialist knows the overall picture and can discuss different strategies to help you choose the best one for your needs.**

## How can I find a Certified Specialist?

- For an alphabetical list by county of certified Bankruptcy Law Specialists, contact:

The State Bar of California  
Department of Legal Specialization  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

Phone (415) 538-2120  
Fax: (415) 538-2180  
E-mail: [legalspec@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:legalspec@calbar.ca.gov)  
Web site: [www.californiaspecialist.org](http://www.californiaspecialist.org)

Whether your situation is simple or complex, you should consider hiring an attorney who specializes in Bankruptcy Law and who is committed through certification to maintaining her or his proficiency through continual practice and continuing education.



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THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

## WHAT CAN A Certified Bankruptcy Law Specialist DO FOR YOU?

BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

