News and resources for board certified attorneys and those seeking certification.

“Certification should be the capstone for a lawyer’s professionalism goals.”

Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead.

IN THIS ISSUE:

2017-2018 BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION & EDUCATION (BLSE)

THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVES NEW CERTIFICATION AREA!

DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL SERVICE AWARDS

FLORIDA BAR BOARD CERTIFICATIONS 2018 APPLICATIONS

JUSTICE HARRY LEE ANSTEAD AWARD

WHY NOT BECOME BOARD CERTIFIED?

BOARD CERTIFIED LAWYERS’ RECEPTION & AWARDS CEREMONY

TAKE THE CERTIFICATION FLAG WITH YOU WHEN YOU TRAVEL

FLORIDA LAWYERS GIVE TO FEED HUNGRY PUERTORICANS

BOARD CERTIFIED LAWYERS IN THE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE BOARD CERTIFIED LAWYERS OF AKERMAN LLP!

FAVORITE FACEBOOK PAGE POST

GET YOUR CERTIFICATION CLE - UPCOMING CLE EVENTS

FLORIDA BOARD CERTIFIED MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS

AREAS OF CERTIFICATION

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The Florida Supreme Court Approves New Certification Area!

It’s official - there are now 27 areas of certification! The Florida Supreme Court approved International Litigation and Arbitration (Sub-chapter 6-31) effective February 1, 2018. Lawyers certified in this area practice law “dealing with disputes in court or arbitration arising from the relations between or among states and international organizations as well as the relations between or among nationals of different states, or between a state and a national of another state”. International law practitioners who specialize in transactions as opposed to litigation will continue to seek certification in International Law (Sub-chapter 6-21). This new area of certification was created in recognition of the infrequent overlap of a transactional and litigation practice in international law. Applications will be available in June 2018.

The Florida Supreme Court also approved Inactive Status (Rule 6-3.7), effective February 1, 2018. A Board Certified lawyer who is prohibited from practicing law (judicial officers), who elects not to practice law (law professors, professional neutrals), who is unable to practice law due to an extended substantial hardship, or who is called to active military service, may elect Inactive Status. If an eligible lawyer elects Inactive Status, the lawyer’s certification can be reactivated if the lawyer decides or is able to practice law again (e.g., a judicial officer who returns to private practice). A lawyer who maintains Inactive Status does not have to take the certification examination when she returns to the active practice of law. Applications for Inactive Status for currently certified lawyers are now available, and if a lawyer had relinquished certification before February 1, 2018, the lawyer may apply for Inactive Status no later than January 31, 2020.

I am pleased to report that the BLSE has continued to administer the certification program within its existing budget. There have been no annual fee increases since 2007, and no imminent increase is anticipated. Despite the recent Court decision which allowed a lawyer to advertise that he is a specialist in a practice area even though he is not Board Certified, the number of applications for certification and recertification remain steady. I believe this is a recognition of the value of Board Certification by lawyers and the public alike as the best objective source of identifying lawyers who have special skills and knowledge in their practice areas, and who are ethical and professional. A lawyer who merely claims expertise in an advertisement has not subjected herself to peer review, an examination, or an evaluation of ethics and professionalism. There are now more than 5,000 Board Certified certificates held by lawyers through The Florida Bar, and the Certification Program is the largest one in the Country.

I cordially invite you to the 2018 Florida Bar Annual Convention in Orlando. On June 14, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., the BLSE will host its annual reception for all Board Certified lawyers. The BLSE will honor lawyers who have been certified for 30 years and thank you for your continued support of and participation in the Certification Program. The BLSE will also announce the winners of the two most prestigious annual certification awards. The “Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Board Certification” recognizes excellence and creativity by a Florida Bar Board Certified Attorney or law firm in advancing the public’s knowledge of and appreciation for Board Certification. News stories, or audio or video presentations that raise awareness about Board Certification are some examples of how a Board Certified lawyer or law firm may promote certification.

The “Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award” will recognize the Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year. This award recognizes exemplary professionalism, excellence, character, and commitment to the Certification Program and the practice of law. Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead is a great supporter of Board Certification and is often quoted for what the Certification Program stands for; “Board Certification is reliable proof of the character and commitment that sets a lawyer apart [and] is a visible way to demonstrate that lawyer’s commitment to professionalism and excellence.” This year, the Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award will be presented by Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston. Nomination applications for both Awards can be obtained online on The Florida Bar’s website. I look forward to seeing you at the Reception.

Steve Rubin, BLSE Chair
Join A Network of Specialists: Become Board Certified In

Condominium and Planned Development

The Florida Bar’s certification program is consistently recognized as a national leader among other state programs.

*Board certified lawyers are:*

*“Evaluated for professionalism and tested for expertise.”*

The Florida Bar board certification can benefit you in the following ways:

- Certification provides an objective measure that a potential client can rely upon when selecting a lawyer.
- By becoming board certified, you join an existing network – and a directory of lawyers at FloridaBar.org/certification – of specialists who frequently refer others to specialists in their fields of practice.
- Certification may enhance the stature of your law firm and can result in lower malpractice insurance rates. Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Co. offers a 10 percent discount to board certified lawyers.

Minimum standards for condominium and planned development law certification, provided in Rule 6-30.3, include:

- Practice of condominium and planned development law for at least 5 years;
- Substantial involvement in the specialty of condominium and planned development law – 40% in the active participation during at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding application;
- 50 hours of approved real estate law certification continuing legal education in the 3 years immediately preceding application;
- Peer review; and,
- A written examination.

(An exemption from the exam is available to members who qualify per Rule 6-30.3)

If you’re considering board certification in condominium and planned development law, applications must be postmarked by August 31 for the following year’s exam. Standards, policies, applications and staff contacts are available online at:

FloridaBar.org/certification.
Join A Network of Specialists: Become Board Certified In International Litigation & Arbitration

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Minimum standards for international litigation and arbitration law certification, provided in Rule 6-31.3, include:

- Practice of law for at least 5 years, in either the United States or abroad, or 4 years with an LL.M. in international law or a related field;
- Substantial involvement in the specialty of international litigation and arbitration during the 3 years immediately preceding application;
- 50 hours of approved international litigation and arbitration law certification continuing legal education in the 3 years immediately preceding application;
- Peer review; and,
- A written examination.
  (An exemption from the exam is available to members who qualify per Rule 6-31.3)

If you’re considering board certification in international litigation and arbitration law, applications must be postmarked by October 31 for the following year’s exam. Standards, policies, applications and staff contacts are available online at FloridaBar.org/certification.
The Florida Bar Board Certification 2018 Applications
Now Available online at: www.Floridabar.org/certification

Florida’s 27 Areas of Certification....

Admiralty and Maritime Law
Adoption Law
Antitrust and Trade Regulation Law
Appellate Practice
Aviation Law
Business Litigation
City, County and Local Government Law
Civil Trial
Condominium and Planned Development Law
Construction Law
Criminal Appellate
Criminal Trial
Education Law
Elder Law
Health Law
Immigration Law
Intellectual Property Law
International Law
International Litigation & Arbitration (Coming Soon)
Juvenile Law
Labor and Employment Law
Marital and Family Law
Real Estate
State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice
Tax Law
Wills, Trusts and Estates
Workers’ Compensation

Evaluated for Professionalism
And Tested for Expertise

For more information visit www.FloridaBar.org/Certification or (850) 561-5824

B.C. BOOTH NOTICE!

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The ‘B.C. Booth’ will be in the Exhibitor Hall - # 4
at
The Florida Bar
2018 Annual Convention
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
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Come by and see the great new B.C. giveaways!
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to make arrangements
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850-561-5842

Kristen Coons McRae
B.C.S., City & Local Govt. Law
One World Trade Center/Freedom Tower
Observation Deck - March 2018

Jeffrey Michael Cohen
B.C.S. Civil Trial Law
Carlton Fields, Miami
Board Certification Flag at the
Dining Hall of Keble College
Oxford University, Oxford England
December 2017

William E. Ruffier
B.C.S. Civil Trial
Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna,
Ruffier, & SOS, Orlando

Florida Board Certified Lawyers on the 7th Continent!
Sara Caldwell, B.C.S. Elder Law, Daytona Beach, FL
Lisa D. Taylor, B.C.S. Health Law, Parsippany, NJ

Antarctica, January 12, 2018
The purpose of the Chief Justice’s Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award is to recognize an active or retired federal judge for outstanding and sustained service to the public, whether through legal or civic service or a combination of them, especially as it relates to the support of pro bono legal services. The award is given to a judge who exemplifies the ideals embodied in the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, furthering the goals of equal justice under the law and encouraging pro bono service by Florida lawyers.
Waylon Thompson, B.C.S. Civil Trial, of Manuel & Thompson in Panama City received the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award for his efforts to keep the federal courthouse in Panama City.

Nicolette Vilmos, B.C.S. Business Litigation, of Broad and Cassel in Orlando has been named to the American Bankruptcy Institute’s 23rd Annual Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop Advisory Board and an Orlando director for the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation Florida Network Board.

Vincent A. Citro, B.C.S. Criminal Trial Law, of the Law Offices of Mark L. Horwitz, P.A., in Orlando has achieved board certification as a criminal trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and been appointed to the Orlando Grievance Committee for the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida.

Maria C. Gonzalez, B.C.S. Marital and Family Law, of Young, Berman, Karpf & Gonzalez, P.A., and Gonzalez Mediation has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Jennifer Diaz, B.C.S. International Law, of Diaz Trade Law in North Miami was elected president of the Organization of Women in International Trade.

Jason E. Handin, B.C.S. Construction Law, of Ward Damon in West Palm Beach has been appointed to the board of directors of the Gold Coast Builders Association.

Tom Scarritt, B.C.S. Civil Trial, was named honorary chair of the Hillsborough County Chapter of the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner in Tampa. Scarritt was also given a Freedom Fighter Award for his leadership role in relocating the Confederate statue from the Hillsborough County Courthouse.
Advertise to the more than 5,000 Board Certified Attorneys in the "Capstone" newsletter!

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Akerman LLP – Kirk Davis, Board Certified in Health Law, and the chair of the firm’s Healthcare Practice Group, spoke on patient and employee safety in the mental health system during the FSHRMPs Annual Meeting Education Conference. Katherine Giddings, Board Certified in Appellate Practice, and a partner in the firm’s Tallahassee office, was named among the Top 250 U.S. Women in Litigation by Benchmark Litigation for the sixth consecutive year. Richard Milstein, Board Certified in Elder Law, and a partner in the firm’s Miami office, was selected by the Dade County Bar Association as a Legal Luminary award winner in the Probate and Estate Planning category.

The following lawyers were ranked by The Legal 500 in various practice areas across Florida: Stacy Bercun Bohm, Board Certified in Construction Law, and a partner in the firm’s Fort Lauderdale office; Richard Bezold, Board Certified in Real Estate, and the chair of the firm’s Real Estate Practice Group; and Thomas Raleigh, III, Board Certified in International Law, and a partner in the firm’s Orlando office.

Along with Giddings, the following lawyers were included in the 2017 edition of the Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list: Silvia Alderman, Board Certified in State & Federal Government & Administrative Practice, and the chair of the firm’s Water Task Force; Karen Buesing, Board Certified in Labor & Employment Law, and a partner in the firm’s Tampa office; Kristen Fiore, Board Certified in Appellate Practice, and a partner in the firm’s Tallahassee office; Lawrence Silverman, Board Certified in Antitrust & Trade Regulation, and a partner in the firm’s Miami office; and Glen Stankee, Board Certified in Tax Law, and a partner in the firm’s Fort Lauderdale office. Buesing and Giddings were recognized on the Legal Elite’s “Hall of Fame” list.

In addition to Alderman, Bezold, Bohm, Bramnick, Buesing, Cohen, Davis, Fiore, Giddings, Hale, Milstein, Raattama, L. Silverman, S. Silverman, Spratt, and Stankee, the following lawyers were named to the 2017 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists: Joe Cox, Board Certified in Estate Planning and Administration & Taxation, and Of Counsel in the firm’s Naples office; Martin Dix, Board Certified in Health Law, and a partner in the firm’s Tallahassee office; Joanne Gelfand, Board Certified as a Program Arbitrator, and Of Counsel in the firm’s Miami office; Elizabeth Hernandez, Board Certified in City, County, & Local Government, and a partner in the firm’s Miami office; Cindy Laquidara, Board Certified in State, Local, & Municipal, and a partner in the firm’s Jacksonville office; James McCann, Board Certified in Business Litigation, and a partner in the firm’s West Palm Beach office; Timothy McDermott, Board Certified in Business Litigation and Civil Trial, and a partner in the firm’s Jacksonville office; David Otero, Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law, and a partner in the firm’s Jacksonville office; Todd Pittenger, Board Certified in Business Litigation, and a partner in the firm’s Orlando office; and Lawrence Rochefort, Board Certified in Business Litigation, and the chair of the firm’s Litigation Practice Group.

In addition to Alderman, Bezold, Bohm, Bramnick, Buesing, Cohen, Cox, Davis, Dix, Gelfand, Giddings, Hale, Hernandez, Laquidara, McCann, McDermott, Milstein, Otero, Pittenger, Raattama, Rochefort, L. Silverman, S. Silverman, Spratt, and Stankee, the following lawyers were named to the 2018 Best Lawyers in America list: Michael Gennett, Board Certified in Health Law, and a partner in the firm’s Miami office; Brian Harris, Board Certified in Tax Law, and a partner in the firm’s Tampa office; and Thomas Streit, Board Certified in Real Estate, and a partner in the firm’s West Palm Beach office. McDermott and L. Silverman were recognized as Best Lawyers of the Year honorees.
Why Not Become Board Certified?
By R. Lynn Lovejoy, Esq., Attorneys’ Title Fund Services, LLC, Pensacola, Florida

I have been board certified almost 25 years. I know it is well worth the time and effort to become a board certified attorney and encourage other members of the Barto consider applying for board certification. It was one afternoon in July 1992 after a very busy day that I found a large brown envelope on my desk, unopened. My thoughts were jumbled. I said to myself, “Now what?” I opened it rather nervously and pulled out my first Florida Bar Certified in Real Estate Law certificate. Not only was I extremely happy at that moment, I was actually on a high for a month. It was one of the most memorable moments of my legal career.

I have been board certified almost 25 years. I know it is well worth the time and effort to become a board certified attorney and encourage other members of the Barto consider applying for board certification. It was one afternoon in July 1992 after a very busy day that I found a large brown envelope on my desk, unopened. My thoughts were jumbled. I said to myself, “Now what?” I opened it rather nervously and pulled out my first Florida Bar Certified in Real Estate Law certificate. Not only was I extremely happy at that moment, I was actually on a high for a month. It was one of the most memorable moments of my legal career.

What a privilege and honor it is now for me to serve on the Real Estate Certification Committee. I know from my own personal experience the dedication and skill it takes to be on that Committee. All Committee members review initial applications, examining carefully the qualifications of each applicant for taking the exam and becoming board certified. Since board certified attorneys must renew their board certified status every five years, all committee members also review applications for those that seek re-certification.

For initial certification, each applicant must pass an exam in his or her field of desired certification. Certification committee members are responsible for drafting exam questions that are fair, and adequately cover the subject area to be tested. There is a lot of work in drafting and revising questions that will be on the exam.

Consumers and lenders are becoming more and more sophisticated about who they want to handle their legal matters. Board certification demonstrates that the attorney handling their affairs has the highest level of expertise. Yes, any law firm or attorney can tout expertise or experience in any given field of law. But only Florida board certified lawyers can stand behind The Florida Bar’s motto on board certification: “Evaluated for professionalism and tested for expertise.”

Since I believe strongly in the professionalism and expertise of board certification myself, I have had an opportunity to put it to the test in my own personal life as a consumer. My fiancee died unexpectedly in June of this year. Thankfully, he had a will, and most of his real and personal property is located in Tallahassee. I live and work in Pensacola, Florida. Although I knew some attorneys in Tallahassee, I didn’t know of any that practiced in the area of wills, trusts, and estates. I hesitated to just pick any attorney at random or even pick one based on another person’s recommendation. I needed someone that could get the job done promptly over the long distance and would keep me adequately informed. I went to the list of board certified attorneys in wills, trusts, and estates on the Bar’s website and found an attorney in Tallahassee. I hired him sight unseen, having never worked with him before. I have not been disappointed. Even though the estate was a fairly simple estate, I needed someone that could handle the little problems that arise in any estate administration. He handled the administration with the expertise I expect of someone who is board certified.

I also know from my personal experience that being board certified can be an advantage in your career. A few years after I became board certified, a potential client called asking whether I was board certified in real estate. I was happy to tell him I was, and he hired me for a project immediately. He remained a client of mine for several years after that.

It is not just consumers and lenders who are interested in board certification. Various companies, law firms, and organizations want attorneys with the qualifications that a board certified attorney can bring to their firm or organization. There are many legal organizations that want board certified attorneys to speak at conventions. Law firms want to show to the public that they have board certified attorneys who can handle various legal issues competently and that their attorneys practice law at a high level of professionalism. Board certified attorneys have a tendency to refer business to other board certified attorneys, especially in another area of expertise. They want to make sure that the person they refer to their clients will be able to handle the task with professionalism and expertise.

Only board certified attorneys can state they are board certified in a certain area on their letterhead, email, and business cards. They can also use a board certification logo with their areas of certification and can use “B.C.S. ‘ which stands for Board Certified Specialist, in their signature block. Some professional liability insurers give a discount for board certified attorneys. (Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company is one such insurance company.)

So far in 2017, 255 Florida attorneys became board certified. Seven attorneys became board certified in Wills, Trusts, and Estates. Another 12 became board certified in Real Estate. In total, there are about 5,000 board certified attorneys in all areas of certification. Did you know that Florida has about 118,000 attorneys? Almost 95% of Florida’s attorneys are not board certified. The Florida Bar now has 26 areas of certification. Surely, there is certainly an area of specialization for most every attorney. In fact, Florida has the most areas of any state that offers board certification for attorneys.
Some members of the Bar are even board certified in more than one certification area.

Even if your practice consists of a small part of real estate practice, or wills, trusts, and estates practice, there may be another field that your practice is leaning toward that complements real estate or wills, trust, and estates. Such practice certifications could be family law, business litigation, construction law, condominium law, tax law, or civil trial litigation or any one of the 26 specialties.

I must warn you, though, that proper completion of the certification application and preparation for the examination are absolutely imperative. Your chances of passing the examination are much higher if you take a few hours a week over several weeks to study, especially those areas in which you are not as comfortable or familiar. The exams are difficult to ensure the applicant has the special knowledge, skill and proficiency in the specific area of certification. The application must be completed with care because the information inquired is extensive, and the references given will be contacted to determine the level of professionalism that board certification requires.

The initial deadline for submitting applications for real estate or wills, trusts, and estate certification is October 31 for the exam the following year, in May. The exam is administered once a year, in May.

Even if you don’t apply this year, use this next year to prepare for the application and exam in 2019. It will be to your advantage. Go to the Florida Bar website under Board Certification where you can review all the information you need to complete your application. The Board Certification website pages for wills, trusts, and estates, and real estate have a wealth of information to help you prepare. They have sample questions to give you an idea of what to expect and what to study. Laptops are allowed for the exam but they must comply with The Florida Bar’s rules.

I cannot stress enough the careful study required to pass the exam. If you do not pass the examination the first time, you can take it again the following year. All applications are kept in strict confidence. Additionally, each applicant is assigned a specific test number for the exam to maintain anonymity.

So, what is preventing you from becoming board certified? Maybe you are saying to yourself that you know you are qualified, and those close to you and your present clients know you are qualified. So why bother? It is true that not all qualified lawyers are certified, but those who are board certified have taken extra steps to have their competence and experience evaluated. Are you ready to take those extra steps?

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**Please join the Board of Legal Specialization and Education at the Board Certified Lawyers’ Reception & Awards Ceremony**

Awards presented by Justice Ricky Polston

**The Florida Bar Annual Convention**

**Thursday, June 14, 2018 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Hilton Bonnet Creek Orlando**

Board Certified Lawyers are:

**Evaluated for Professionalism and Tested for Expertise**

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A photo shared on social media speaks volumes about the desperate situation in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

In giant letters drawn at a street intersection, it says: “SOS. Necesitamos agua/comida!!”

Translation: Urgent distress. We need water/food!

The basics of human existence are in high demand in Puerto Rico, where Hurricane Maria made landfall on September 20 with winds of 155 mph, disabling radars, weather stations, and cell towers, and destroying the electrical grid, leaving an estimated 3.4 million people without power.

Without electricity, pumps could not supply water.

Many homes and government buildings have collapsed walls and no roofs.

Carlos Bonilla, a Florida lawyer in Orlando at ELP Global PLLC, has family in Puerto Rico, and is driven to help alleviate this humanitarian crisis.

“My mother is one of 11 brothers and sisters. My Uncle Rafael, in San Jose, could not get word from one of his sisters, Teresa, in the southern part of the island. She is the only sibling he did not hear from. His motorcycle and car can’t get through the roads. “

“He said he would get on his 10-speed bike if he has to. That’s how hard it is to communicate with loved ones,” Bonilla said. His mother, Nilda Rivera Cruz, is getting her Ph.D. in psychology at Carlos Albizu University in Miami (that also has a campus in San Jose, Puerto Rico).

Mother and son, partnering with the university, have launched an effort to provide 100,000 meals to the people of Puerto Rico.

“Amazingly, we are able to buy the meals and have them shipped to Puerto Rico for only 31 cents per meal, as long as we purchase them in blocks of 100,000 each,” Bonilla said in an email sent to all members of the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida.

“My mother Nilda and I have personally kicked off the food drive by committing to purchase the first 10,000 meals. “But even a $10 donation buys a family 30 meals, so no donation will be too small."

“We have come up with a plan in conjunction with the director of IT for the university to use the university accounts and IT systems for the food drive program, and since the university is a nonprofit entity, we are capable of creating a crowdfunding platform where donations may be tax deductible,” Bonilla explained.

Albizu University’s Hurricane Maria Relief is working with REAP (www.reaplatinamerica.org) to get the prepackaged meals delivered to Puerto Rico.

GISELA RODRIGUEZ, a solo practitioner in Tallahassee, has parents in Jayuya, Puerto Rico, and she hasn’t heard from them since Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Needing to do something, she sent out the word in Tallahassee that her law office would collect donations to be sent by Operation Airdrop. By her deadline on September 28, four truckloads were on their way to desperate Puerto Ricans.

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“We have come up with a plan in conjunction with the director of IT for the university to use the university accounts and IT systems for the food drive program, and since the university is a nonprofit entity, we are capable of creating a crowdfunding platform where donations may be tax deductible,” Bonilla explained.

Albizu University’s Hurricane Maria Relief is working with REAP (www.reaplatinamerica.org) to get the prepackaged meals delivered to Puerto Rico.

To contribute to the food drive, go to www.gofundme.com/albizu-univ-puerto-rican-relief.
David Manz

Congratulations to David Manz, B.C.S. Marital and Family Law, of the Manz Law Firm in Marathon, recipient of the 2018 Family Law Section of The Florida Bar’s Visionary Award for “outstanding service and invaluable contributions to the practice of family law throughout the State of Florida.”

Section Chair Nicole Goetz presented the award in January during the annual American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers - AAML - Florida Chapter/Family Law Section Marital and Family Law Review Course. She said: “Through the years, David has made incredible contributions to the practice by chairing the Marital and Family Law Board Certification Committee, leading the AAML Florida Chapter, and after working his way through leading numerous committees, chairing the Family Law Section. In addition to his leadership roles, David has worked diligently to address legislation affecting Florida’s families, has written numerous articles and has lectured extensively on family law. Not surprisingly, access to justice is David’s passion. He actively takes cases through Dade Legal Aid & Put Something Back and handles local cases on a pro bono basis. After Hurricane Irma, David selflessly gave his time to assist dispossessed residents in Monroe County—his home county and an area hardest hit by the hurricane. Presently serving as a member of the board of directors for The Florida Bar Foundation, and previously recognized as the 2017 Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award winner for the 16th Circuit, David demonstrates what each of us should aspire to as practitioners.”

In accepting the award, Manz said, “It has been my honor to serve the Family law Section and the Florida Chapter of the AAML for some twenty-five years. During that service I have committed to the enhanced professionalism of family law in Florida, have made innumerable friends statewide, and have become a far better lawyer because of that service. During my career in the section and chapter, I have realized that access to justice is the cornerstone to our legal system, and that the lack of access to justice in Florida is endemic and pervasive. As Abraham Lincoln said, as lawyers we have a superior opportunity to do good. We need to do that. To paraphrase Cervantes, it is our responsibility not to discover whether the oppressed and the poor are reduced to these circumstances and suffer this distress for their vices, or for their virtues: Our sole responsibility is to see them as people in need, having eyes only for their sufferings, not for their misdeeds.”

John H. Hickey

Honored with the Ervin Gonzalez Memorial Award at the Dade County Bar Association’s Over the Rainbow Judicial Awards Celebration

Miami, FL- The Miami based, nationally recognized trial law firm, Hickey Law Firm, P.A. is pleased to announce that its lead trial attorney, John H. (Jack) Hickey, B.C.S. Admiralty and Maritime Law and Civil Trial was honored as the first recipient of the Ervin Gonzalez Memorial Award at the Dade County Bar Association’s (DCBA) Over the Rainbow Judicial Awards Celebration on December 5, 2017.

The Ervin Gonzalez Memorial Award is named after famed trial lawyer, Ervin Gonzalez. Ervin passed away in June 2017. Ervin, like Jack, was a Past President of the DCBA and a member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. The Dade County Bar Association awards the Ervin Gonzalez Memorial Award to someone who achieves excellence in the courtroom as a lawyer, in the classroom as a teacher, and in the bar as a leader.

The Dade County Bar Association (DCBA) is the largest lawyer network in Miami-Dade County and the largest voluntary bar association in Florida.

Jack was born and raised in Miami. He attended Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Florida State University, (B.A. Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa), and Duke University School of Law. He started his career at a large law firm representing cruise lines, railroads, and other self-insured corporations. He switched sides and for the last 19 years has represented only Plaintiffs in catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death. Hickey is a member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar—the body which licenses and regulates all lawyers who practice in Florida—and a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Justice Association (FJA) and a State Delegate of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). Hickey is a frequent lecturer and writer on trial technique and on maritime law. He has lectured and written papers for the following: the American Association for Justice, National Trial Lawyers, Florida Justice Association, National Crime Victims Bar Association, Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, Dade County Bar Association, Miami Dade Trial Lawyers Association, South Miami-Kendall Bar Association, Coral Gables Bar Association, New Jersey Association for Justice, and the New York Bar Association’s Senior Lawyer Magazine. He is a Past President of the DCBA. Hickey is triple Board Certified between 2 different bodies, the National Board of Trial Advocacy (Trial Lawyer) and by The Florida Bar (Civil Trial and Admiralty and Maritime).
FAVORITE PAGE POST

It's Friday!
Take some time this weekend to chase bubbles with a friend!

Shhhhh, you have to be quiet. Exams are going on!

Exams are over! Enjoy the weekend!

Things aren't always as hard as they seem. 2018 applications for Board Certification will be posted soon!
www.floridabar.org/certification

Did your ears hear what your mouth just said?

It's Friday - Let it go!

Driver assisted cars help you navigate the highway. Board certified attorneys help you navigate the law!

It's Friday!
Get up and go!

Follow us on Facebook
Florida Board Certification
Upcoming CLE Events

May 1 - 27
For more information and to register online visit: FloridaBar.org/cle

Constitutional Issues Course #2819
May 3, 2018 - Audio Webcast

Tax Section – Wealth Asset Protection Course #2620
May 4, 2018 - Tampa Airport Marriott & Webcast

Hot Topics in Healthcare Bankruptcy Cases Course #2823
May 8, 2018 - Audio Webcast

International Law Section Audio Webcast #2 Course #2626
May 8, 2018 - Audio Webcast

RPPTL Section Audio Webcast #9 Course #2635
May 9, 2018 - Audio Webcast

Tax Section Telephone Seminar #15 Course #2795
May 9, 2018 - Telephone Seminar

Workers’ Compensation Audio Webcast #8 Course #2543
May 9, 2018 - Audio Webcast

City, County & Local Government Certification Review Course #2632
May 10, 2018 – Orlando, Omni Champions Gate Resort

Land Use 2018 Course #2629
May 10, 2018 – Orlando, Omni Champions Gate Resort

41st Annual Local Government Law in Florida Course #2631
May 11-12, 2018 – Orlando, Omni Champions Gate Resort

Quo Warranto: By What Warrant Course #2723
May 15, 2018 - Audio Webcast

Advanced Trial Advocacy 2018 Course #2753
May 15-19, 2018 – Gainesville, University of Florida-College of Law

Tax Section Telephone Seminar #16 Course #2796
May 23, 2018 - Telephone Seminar

Water, Water Everywhere, But Where Should It Go?
Demystifying SB 10 Course # 2556
May 23, 2018 - Audio Webcast
## Board Certification Calendar
### Application Filing Periods & Examination Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Cycle Filing Period:</th>
<th>July 1 – August 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Areas:</strong></td>
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<td>Admiralty and Maritime Law</td>
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<th>Second Cycle Filing Period:</th>
<th>September 1 – October 31</th>
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<tr>
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<td>City, County &amp; Local Government Law</td>
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<td>Criminal Appellate Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Law</td>
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There are no alternative dates or make-up exams.

All 2019 exams will be held at the Tampa Hilton Westshore Hotel:
2225 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa - Florida 33607 - (813) 877-6688

### FIRST CYCLE AREA EXAM DATES

**Thursday, March 7, 2019:**
- Admiralty & Maritime Law
- Adoption Law
- Aviation Law
- Civil Trial Law
- Condominium & Planned Development
- Immigration & Nationality Law
- International Law

**Friday, March 8, 2019:**
- Appellate Practice
- Education Law
- Elder Law
- Labor & Employment Law
- Marital & Family Law
- Tax Law

### SECOND CYCLE AREA EXAM DATES

**Thursday, May 16, 2019:**
- Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law
- Construction Law
- Intellectual Property
- Juvenile Law
- Real Estate Law
- State & Federal Government & Administrative Practice

**Friday, May 17, 2019:**
- Business Litigation
- City, County & Local Government Law
- Criminal Appellate Law
- Criminal Trial Law
- Health Law
- Wills, Trusts & Estates Law
- Workers’ Compensation

International Litigation & Arbitration *(Exam Date TBD)*
### Areas of Board Certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Certification</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admiralty and Maritime Law</td>
<td>Jason Rawls</td>
<td>850-561-5736</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrawls@floridabar.org">jrawls@floridabar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption Law</td>
<td>Maritza McGill</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antitrust and Trade Regulation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appellate Practice</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviation Law</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cvaught@floridabar.org">cvaught@floridabar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Litigation</td>
<td>Laurinda Babers</td>
<td>850/561-5697</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lbabers@floridabar.org">lbabers@floridabar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, County, and Local Government</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Trial</td>
<td>Amanda Barrett</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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