



CIVIL TRIAL LAW CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION SPECIFICATIONS



1. Purpose of the Examination

The examination is intended to test whether an applicant possesses the knowledge, skills, abilities, ethics, and judgments that are common to specialists in civil trial law and is also intended to be a valid and reliable measurement to justify the representation of special competence and professionalism that distinguishes a “Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer.”

2. Examination Content

Topics that may be covered on the Civil Trial examination include:

A. Litigation Skills

- 1.1 Factual analysis;
- 1.2 Issue spotting;
- 1.3 Problem solving;
- 1.4 Cost benefits analysis of litigation;
- 1.5 Evaluation of the strength and weakness of a case;
- 1.6 Settlement strategy;
- 1.7 Strategies for persuasion;
- 1.8 Jury selection issues;
- 1.9 Strategies for the use of trial objections; and
- 1.10 Courtroom Techniques

B. Evidence

- 2.1 Florida Evidence Code and Florida Rules of Evidence and their application.

C. Ethics

- 3.1 Code of Professional Responsibility as it relates to situations encountered by the trial lawyer as well as the Oath of Attorney.

D. Civil Procedure

- 4.1 Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and its impact upon the litigation process.

3. **Examination Format**

The Civil Trial examination is administered in four parts:

Part I consists of:

- **Ethics.** This portion of the examination will test the applicant's knowledge and application of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Oath of Attorney as it relates to situations encountered by the trial lawyer.
- **Evidence.** This portion of the examination will test the applicant's knowledge of the Florida Evidence Code and its application. **You will be allowed to print and bring a copy of this document with you for reference during the examination from the following link: [Online Sunshine Link](#) .**

Part II consists of:

- **Civil Procedure.** This section is designed to evaluate the applicant's knowledge of the procedural aspects of litigation in the Florida courts and their impact upon the litigation process. **You will be allowed to print and bring a copy of this document with you for reference during the examination. Go to search box on [The Florida Bar website](#) and enter Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.**

Part III consists of:

- **Civil Procedure and Litigation Skills.** This portion of the examination will provide the examinee a case file and / or a partial transcript of a trial based upon that case file. The test requires you to identify mistakes apparent in the transcript, explain why they were incorrect, and what the correct approach should have been.

Part IV consists of:

- **Litigation Skills.** This portion of the examination will provide the examinee a case file and / or a partial transcript of a trial based upon that case file. The test requires you to identify mistakes apparent in the transcript, explain why they were incorrect, and what the correct approach should have been.

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The Civil Trial Board Certification Law Exam is made up of four parts and consists of the following:

Part I:

- 1 Essay worth 20 points each
- 5 Essays worth 6 points each

Part II:

- 30 Multiple Choice Questions worth 1 point each
- 3 Short Answer Questions worth 7 points each

Part III:

- 3 Short Answer Questions worth 7 points each
- 4 Short Essay Questions worth 7 points each
- 1 Short Essay Question worth 6 points each

Part IV:

- 2 Short Essay Questions worth 16 points each
- 4 Short Essay Questions worth 8 points each

Examinees will be tested on law in effect as of December 31 of the year preceding the administration of the examination.

4. Suggested Study Materials

- Example questions posted on website
- Applicable constitutional, decisional, statutory and regulatory statutes