

**CHAPTER 6. LEGAL SPECIALIZATION AND EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**

6-1. GENERALLY

RULE 6-1.1 COMPOSITION OF BOARD

The board of legal specialization and education shall be composed of 16 members of The Florida Bar appointed by the president of The Florida Bar, with the advice and consent of the board of governors. Fifteen of the members shall hold office for 3 years and until their successors are appointed. These 15 members shall be appointed to staggered terms of office, and the initial appointees shall serve as follows: 5 members shall serve until June 30 next following their appointment, 5 members shall serve until the second June 30 following their appointment, and 5 members shall serve until the third June 30 following their appointment. One of the members shall be designated by the president as chair. In addition, 1 member shall also be the chair of the continuing legal education committee of The Florida Bar, although no person may be chair of both the board of legal specialization and education and continuing legal education committee of The Florida Bar. Any vacancy shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); June 27, 1996, effective July 1, 1996 (677 So.2d 272).

RULE 6-1.2 PUBLIC NOTICE

The Florida Bar may publish a public notice in any media, in substantially the following form:

NOTICE

FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC

LAWYERS INDICATING "BOARD CERTIFIED," OR "BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALIST," OR "BOARD CERTIFIED EXPERT" HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE FLORIDA BAR AS HAVING SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND PROFICIENCY IN THEIR AREAS OF

PRACTICE AND HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BY THE BAR AS TO THEIR CHARACTER, ETHICS, AND REPUTATION FOR PROFESSIONALISM IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW.

ALL PERSONS ARE URGED TO MAKE THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND EVALUATION OF ANY LAWYER BEING CONSIDERED.

This notice published by The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education, Telephone 850/561-5600, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); June 27, 1996, effective July 1, 1996 (677 So.2d 272); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); address change, amended July 3, 2003; amended December 20, 2007, effective March 1, 2008 (SC06-736); amended Jan. 4, 2019, effective March 5, 2019 (SC18-1683).

RULE 6-1.3 LIABILITY

The Florida Bar shall assume no liability to any persons whomsoever by reason of the adoption and implementation of the designation or certification plans.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120).

RULE 6-1.4 AMENDMENT

These rules may be amended in accordance with the procedures for amending the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar as provided in rule 1-12.1.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

RULE 6-1.5 DISQUALIFICATION AS ATTORNEY DUE TO CONFLICT

(a) Members of the BLSE, Members of the Certification Committees, Members of the Board of Governors, and Employees of The Florida Bar. No member of the BLSE, member of a certification committee, member of the board of governors, or employee of The Florida Bar shall represent a party other than The Florida Bar in certification proceedings authorized under these rules.

(b) Former Members of the BLSE, Former Members of the Certification Committees, Former Board Members, and Former Employees. No former member of the BLSE, former member of a certification committee, former member of the board of governors, or former employee of The Florida Bar shall represent any party other than The Florida Bar in certification proceedings authorized under these rules if personally involved to any degree in the matter while a member of the BLSE, certification committee, board of governors, or while an employee of The Florida Bar.

A former member of the BLSE, former member of a certification committee, former member of the board of governors, or former employee of The Florida Bar who did not participate personally in any way in the matter or in any related matter in which the attorney seeks to be a representative, and who did not serve in a supervisory capacity over such matter, shall not represent any party except The Florida Bar for 1 year after such service without the express consent of the board.

(c) Partners, Associates, Employers, or Employees of the Firms of BLSE Members, Certification Committee Members, or Board of Governors Members Precluded From Representing Parties Other Than The Florida Bar. Members of the firms of board of governors members, BLSE members, or certification committee members shall not represent any party other than The Florida Bar in certification proceedings authorized under these rules without the express consent of the board.

(d) Partners, Associates, Employers, or Employees of the Firms of Former BLSE Members, Former Certification Committee Members, or Former Board of Governors Members Precluded From Representing Parties Other Than The Florida Bar. Attorneys in the firms of former board of governors members, former BLSE members, or former certification committee members shall not represent any party other than The Florida Bar in certification proceedings authorized under these rules for 1 year after the former member's service without the express consent of the board.

Added May 20, 2004 (SC03-705), (875 So.2d 448).

6-2. FLORIDA DESIGNATION PLAN

Subchapter 6-2 Sunsetting on June 30, 1996.

6-3. FLORIDA CERTIFICATION PLAN

RULE 6-3.1 ADMINISTRATION

The board of legal specialization and education shall have the authority and responsibility to administer the program for regulation of certification including:

(a) recommending to the board of governors areas in which certificates may be granted and providing procedures by which such areas may be determined, refined, or eliminated;

(b) recommending to the board of governors minimum, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory standards concerning education, experience, proficiency, and other relevant matters for granting certificates in areas of certification;

(c) providing procedures for the investigation and testing of the qualifications of applicants and certificate holders;

(d) awarding certificates to qualified applicants;

(e) encouraging law schools, the continuing legal education committee of The Florida Bar, voluntary bar associations, and other

continuing legal education entities to develop and maintain a program of continuing legal education to meet the standards described by the plan;

(f) cooperating with other agencies of The Florida Bar in establishing and enforcing standards of professional conduct necessary for the recognition and regulation of certification;

(g) cooperating with the standing committee on specialization of the American Bar Association and with the agencies in other states engaged in the regulation of legal specialization;

(h) establishing policies, procedures, and appropriate fees to evaluate and accredit lawyer certifying organizations and programs;

(i) reporting as required, but at least annually, to the board of governors on the status and conditions of the plan;

(j) determining standards, rules, and regulations to implement these rules in accordance with the minimum standards prescribed by the Supreme Court of Florida; and

(k) delegating to The Florida Bar staff any of the administrative responsibilities of the board of legal specialization and education providing said board retains responsibility for staff decisions.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); May 20, 2004 (SC03-705), (875 So.2d 448).

RULE 6-3.2 CERTIFICATION COMMITTEES

(a) Initial Certification Committees. For each certification area approved by the Supreme Court of Florida, a 9-member committee, bearing the name of the area, shall be appointed by the president of The Florida Bar, with the advice and consent of the board of governors. Initial committee appointees shall be eminent attorneys in each field, shall be members in good standing of The Florida Bar, shall have been admitted to The Florida Bar no less than 10 years, and must meet such other requirements as may in

the future be promulgated by the board of legal specialization and education. Initial committee appointees shall be certified in the applicable area of practice by reason of appointment to that area's certification committee. The committee members shall hold office for 3 years and until their successors are appointed. The committee members shall be appointed to staggered terms of office, and the initial appointees shall serve as follows: 3 members shall serve until June 30 next following their appointment, 3 members shall serve until the second June 30 following their appointment, and 3 members shall serve until the third June 30 following their appointment.

(b) Subsequent Certification Committees. Subsequent certification committee appointees shall be appointed by the president-elect of The Florida Bar. must be certified in the area at the time of appointment, must be members in good standing of The Florida Bar, and must meet such other requirements as may be promulgated by the board of legal specialization and education. Upon the recommendation of the board of legal specialization and education and the approval of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, the composition of a certification committee may be adjusted to no fewer than 5 members or no more than 15 members. Committee members shall be appointed to staggered terms of office.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1). Amended April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (SC10-1967).

RULE 6-3.3 JURISDICTION OF CERTIFICATION COMMITTEES

Each certification committee shall be responsible for:

(a) proposing to the board of legal specialization and education criteria for the issuance or renewal of a certificate, which may include:

- (1) experience;
- (2) references;

- (3) continuing legal education;
 - (4) examination, either oral or written or both;
 - (5) whether certificates may be issued without examination and on what basis; and
 - (6) other relevant matters;
- (b) reviewing applications for certificates;
- (c) reviewing and establishing testing procedures as may be deemed necessary for certification or recertification; and
- (d) recommending to the board of legal specialization and education that certificates be issued to those individuals meeting both the minimum standards imposed by this plan and the particular standards for the area for which certification is sought.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

RULE 6-3.4 LIMITATIONS ON THE POWERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THE BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION AND EDUCATION, AND THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEES

(a) **Limit on Right to Practice.** No standard shall be approved that shall, in any way, limit the right of a certificate holder to practice law in all areas.

(b) **Certification Not Required to Practice.** No lawyer shall be required to be certified before practicing law in any particular area.

(c) **Certification of Individuals Only.** All requirements for and all benefits to be derived from certification are individual and may not be fulfilled by or attributed to a law firm of which the certified lawyer may be a member.

(d) **Voluntary Nature of Plan.** Participation in the plan shall be on a voluntary basis.

(e) Limit on Number of Certified Areas. The limit on the number of areas in which a lawyer may be certified shall be determined by such practical limits as are imposed by the requirements of “substantial involvement” and such other standards as may be established by the board of legal specialization and education.

(f) Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. No rules or standards shall be adopted in contravention of these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

RULE 6-3.5 STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION

(a) Standards for Certification. The minimum standards for certification are prescribed below. Each area of certification established under this chapter may contain higher or additional standards if approved by the Supreme Court of Florida.

(b) Eligibility for Application. A member in good standing of The Florida Bar who is currently engaged in the practice of law and who meets the area’s standards may apply for certification. The applicant must continue to practice law and remain a member in good standing of The Florida Bar from the date the application is filed to the date the certificate is issued. The certificate issued by the board of legal specialization and education states that the lawyer is a “Board Certified [area of certification] Lawyer.”

(c) Minimum Requirements for Qualifying for Certification With Examination. Minimum requirements for qualifying for certification by examination are as follows.

(1) *Minimum Years of Practice of Law.* The applicant must have a minimum of 5 years substantially engaged in the practice of law. The “practice of law” means legal work performed primarily for purposes of rendering legal advice or representation. Service as a judge of any court of record constitutes the practice of law for certification purposes. Employment by the government of the

United States, any state (including subdivisions of the state such as counties or municipalities), or the District of Columbia, and employment by a public or private corporation or other business constitutes the practice of law for certification purposes if the individual was required as a condition of employment to be a member of the bar of any state or the District of Columbia. The practice of law in a foreign nation state, U.S. territory, or U.S. protectorate, or employment in a position that requires as a condition of employment that the employee be licensed to practice law in that foreign nation state, U.S. territory, or U.S. protectorate, counts as up to, but no more than, 3 of the 5 years required for certification if provided in the applicable certification area standards.

(2) *Substantial Involvement.* The applicant must demonstrate competence and substantial involvement in the applicable certification area during 3 of the last 5 years preceding the application for certification.

(3) *Continuing Legal Education.* The applicant must complete the continuing legal education requirement in the applicable certification area as set by that area's standards. No certification area's standards may be less than 10 certification hours per year. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the applicable certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(4) *Examination.* The applicant must pass a written examination that is applied uniformly to all applicants and is designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, professional responsibility, and ethics in the applicable certification area. The award of an LL.M. degree from an approved law school in the applicable certification area within 8 years of application may substitute as the written examination required in this subdivision if the area's standards so provide.

(5) *Current Certification by Approved Organizations.* The board of legal specialization and education may approve substitution of current certification by an approved organization in the applicable certification area within 5 years of filing an

application for partial equivalent credit, including the written examination required in subdivision (c)(4) at the certification committee's recommendation.

(6) *Peer Review.* Peer review is used to solicit information to assess competence in the specialty field, and professionalism and ethics in the practice of law. To qualify for board certification, the applicant must be recognized as having achieved a level of competence indicating special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in handling the usual matters in the specialty field. The applicant must also be evaluated as to character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism. An applicant otherwise qualified may be denied certification on the basis of peer review. Certification may also be withheld pending the outcome of any disciplinary complaint or malpractice action.

As part of the peer review process, the board of legal specialization and education and its area committees must review an applicant's professionalism, ethics, and disciplinary record. This review must include both disciplinary complaints and malpractice actions. The process may also include solicitation of public input and independent inquiry apart from review of completed peer review forms. Peer review is mandatory for all applicants and may not be eliminated by equivalents.

(d) Limitations on and Minimum Requirements for Qualifying for Certification Without Examination.

(1) *Limitations on Qualifying for Certification Without Examination.* When certification without examination is available in an area, it may be granted only as follows.

(A) *Two-Year Post-Approval Period.* Certification may be granted to individuals who apply within 2 years after the date on which the applicable certification area is approved by the Supreme Court of Florida.

(B) *Individual Certification Standards.* Certification may be granted as otherwise permitted in the particular standards for the applicable certification area.

(2) *Minimum Requirements for Qualifying for Certification Without Examination.* When certification without examination is available in an area, the minimum requirements are as follows.

(A) Practice of Law. The applicant must demonstrate a minimum of 20 years in the practice of law as defined above on a full-time basis.

(B) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate competence and substantial involvement in the applicable certification area during 5 of the last 10 years, including the year immediately preceding the application for certification. Substantial involvement in the particular area of law for the 1 year immediately preceding the application may be waived for good cause shown.

(C) Continuing Legal Education. The applicant must complete continuing legal education in the applicable certification area as set by that area's standards of at least 15 hours per year.

(D) Peer Review. The applicant must undergo peer review as set forth above.

(E) Fees. The applicant must pay any required fees.

(e) Good Cause. In determining good cause under this chapter, the board of legal specialization and education and applicable certification committee must consider the applicant's supervisory responsibility in the certification area; the applicant's special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in the certification area; the nature and complexity of matters in the certification area handled by the applicant; the number of matters in the certification area handled by the applicant over the course of the applicant's career; and any career or other factors relevant to the applicant's request for a waiver of compliance.

(f) Extensions. The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion of the application requirements on the executive director's or board of governors' request for good cause shown, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) national or regional emergency;
- (2) flood, fire, hurricane, extreme weather, or explosion;
- (3) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine;
- (4) war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts;
- (5) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or political unrest; or
- (6) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation, mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

Requests for extensions from individual members will not be considered.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); December 8, 2005, the Supreme Court of Florida issued a revised version of its original October 6, 2005 opinion adopting this amendment, effective January 1, 2006 (SC05-206); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (SC08-1890) (34 Fla.L.Weekly S628a); amended August 22, 2024, effective October 21, 2024 (SC2024-0237); amended November 20, 2025, effective January 20, 2026 (SC2025-0017).

RULE 6-3.6 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Duration of Certification. No certificate lasts for a period longer than 5 years.

(b) Minimum Standards for Proficiency. Each area of certification established under this chapter contains requirements and safeguards for the continued proficiency of any certificate holder. The following minimum standards apply:

- (1) a satisfactory showing of substantial involvement during the period of certification in the particular area for which certification was granted;

(2) a satisfactory showing of continuing legal education in the area for which certification is granted but in no event less than 50 credit hours during the 5-year period of certification;

(3) satisfactory peer review and professional ethics record in accordance with rule 6-3.5(c)(6);

(4) membership in good standing of The Florida Bar and any other bar or jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted; a pending disciplinary complaint or malpractice action against an applicant for recertification may not be the sole basis to deny recertification; and

(5) payment of any fees prescribed by the plan.

(c) Failure to Meet Standards for Recertification; Lapse of Certificate. Any applicant for recertification who has either failed to meet the standards for recertification or has allowed the certificate to lapse must meet all the requirements for initial certification as set out in the area's standards.

(d) Good Cause. In determining good cause under this chapter, the board of legal specialization and education and applicable certification committee must consider the applicant's supervisory responsibility in the certification area; the applicant's special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in the certification area; the nature and complexity of matters in the certification area handled by the applicant; the number of matters in the certification area handled by the applicant over the course of the applicant's career; and any career or other factors relevant to the applicant's request for a waiver of compliance.

(e) Practice of Law for Recertification. Service as a judge, administrative law judge, court commissioner, master, referee, magistrate, or arbitrator as applicable in the applicable certification area constitutes the practice of law for recertification purposes at the applicant's request if the applicant otherwise meets all requirements for the applicable certification area including the percentage of time required for substantial involvement in the applicable certification area.

(f) Waiver of Substantive Requirements. The applicable certification committee must waive the quantitative practice requirements for any applicant who has been continuously certified for 14 years and otherwise meets all requirements for the applicable certification area at the applicant's request. Quantitative practice requirements do not include the percentage-of-time requirement for substantial involvement, but do include, for example, minimum numbers of matters, trials, or hearings specified in individual certification areas.

(g) Waiver for Health Reasons. The applicable certification committee may waive compliance with any portion of the quantitative practice criteria in an individual recertification cycle for an otherwise qualified applicant who is not able to meet the recertification requirements for health reasons for good cause shown on a special application form. Quantitative practice requirements do not include the percentage-of-time requirement for substantial involvement, but do include, for example, minimum number of matters, trials, or hearings specified individual certification areas. In determining good cause under this rule, the certification committee will consider, if the applicant requests, the factors listed to be considered under good cause above and the length and severity of the applicant's health issues.

(h) Extensions.

(1) The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion of the application requirements on the executive director's or board of governors' request for good cause shown, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (A) national or regional emergency;
- (B) flood, fire, hurricane, extreme weather, or explosion;
- (C) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine;
- (D) war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts;

(E) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or political unrest; or

(F) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation, mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

(2) The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion of the application requirements on the applicant's request for undue hardship for good cause shown.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (SC10-1967); amended February 2, 2023, effective April 3, 2023 (SC22-1291)); amended August 22, 2024, effective October 21, 2024 (SC2024-0237); amended November 20, 2025, effective January 20, 2026 (SC2025-0017).

RULE 6-3.7 INACTIVE STATUS

(a) Purpose. Inactive status as to board certification under chapter 6, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, is available to eligible members who apply and qualify under this rule.

(b) Applicability. Eligible members are:

(1) *Judicial Officers.* A board certified member who is appointed or elected as a judicial officer will be permitted to retain board certification in an inactive status if the member files a properly executed application and if the member is determined eligible under this rule. For purposes of this rule, the term “judicial officer” includes:

(A) members of the United States Constitution Article III federal judiciary;

(B) justices of the Supreme Court of Florida;

(C) judges of the district courts of appeal;

(D) judges of the circuit and county courts;

(E) administrative law judges;

(F) magistrates employed through the court system who are prohibited from practicing law;

(G) masters employed through the court system who are prohibited from practicing law; and

(H) any other judicial officers, as determined by the BLSE who are prohibited from practicing law.

(2) *Law Professors.* A board certified member who does not practice law or ceases to practice law for the purpose of teaching law will be permitted to retain board certification in an inactive status if the member files a properly executed application and is determined eligible under this rule. The member must agree not to practice law if granted inactive status under this rule. For purposes of this rule, the term “teaching” includes only accredited law school and graduate law courses.

(3) *Professional Neutrals.* A board certified member who does not practice law or ceases to practice law for the purpose of being or becoming a mediator, arbitrator or voluntary trial resolution judge will be permitted to retain board certification in an inactive status if the member files a properly executed application and is determined eligible under this rule. The member must agree not to practice law if granted inactive status under this rule.

(4) *Military Personnel.* A board certified member who is called to active duty will be permitted to retain board certification in an inactive status if the member files a properly executed application and is determined eligible under this rule. The member will be exempt from the continuing legal education required for recertification applicable to the member’s practice area during the period of active military duty.

(5) *Extended Substantial Hardship Cases.* A board certified member who is not otherwise eligible under this rule, but is unable to practice law because of a unique substantial and material hardship, medical or otherwise, may be permitted to retain board certification in an inactive status if the member files an

application that is approved by the BLSE. The BLSE may impose terms and conditions, waive any requirements, or extend the time within which recertification requirements must be met. The BLSE may seek the advice of the relevant area certification committee in determining whether to grant the application, what conditions should be imposed, or what waivers should be granted.

(6) *Not Currently Certified Members.* During the 2 years following the effective date of this policy, any member who voluntarily relinquished board certification before the effective date of this rule, but who is otherwise eligible for inactive status, may be granted inactive status on approval by the BLSE.

(c) Qualifications.

(1) *Compliance with Policies.* A member who is granted board certified inactive status must maintain an active membership with The Florida Bar, obtain continuing legal education credits required for recertification applicable to the member's practice area (unless otherwise exempt under the policies), and otherwise comply with the applicable rules and policies governing board certification. The member's 5-year recertification cycle will remain intact and the member must report completion of the continuing legal education credits at the end of each 5-year cycle, unless otherwise exempt under the policies.

(2) *Annual Confirmation of Inactive Status.* A member who is granted board certified inactive status must confirm continued eligibility on an annual basis on a form approved by the BLSE.

(3) *Communication.* While board certified inactive, the member must use the phrase "board certified inactive" and include the practice area as a means by which to distinguish board certification. On reactivation, the member may communicate board certification as otherwise permitted in the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

(4) *Annual Fee.* A member who is board certified inactive status must pay an annual fee equal to one-half of the fee required of board certified members.

(d) Revocation or Relinquishment of Board Certified Inactive Status.

(1) *Revocation for Noncompliance.* The BLSE can revoke board certified inactive status if the member fails to comply with the policies or as provided under policy 2.15. On revocation, the member cannot use the phrase “board certified inactive.” Unless and until the member is reactivated to board certified status, the member cannot use the phrase “board certified,” or any other term permitted for use by board certified lawyers in the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. If revocation is considered, the same notice and hearing provisions set forth in BLSE policy 2.15(d) apply.

(2) *Relinquishment.* A board certified inactive member must notify the BLSE in writing within 90 days if the member no longer qualifies for, or desires to retain, inactive status. The member must cease to use the phrase board certified inactive and must immediately apply for reactivation of board certification or relinquish board certification.

(e) Reactivation to Board Certified Status and Recertification.

(1) *Reactivation Requirements.* If the member no longer qualifies for, or desires to retain, board certified inactive status, the member may apply for reactivation of board certification within 90 days. The member must demonstrate compliance with the continuing legal education requirement for the applicable practice area, unless otherwise exempt under the policies, be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar who is eligible to practice law in Florida, and otherwise comply with the applicable rules and policies governing board certification. On review that the requirements have been satisfied, board certification will be reactivated.

(2) *Reactivation Fee.* Members who apply for reactivation of board certification must pay a fee equal to one-half of the fee required to apply for recertification.

(3) *Recertification after Reactivation.* On reactivation, the member must apply for recertification by the application filing deadline consistent with the member’s 5-year certification cycle.

The requirements for recertification may be prorated by the relevant area certification committee if approved by the BLSE.

Added and effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 so.2d 1) (Emeritus Specialist status); amended Oct. 6, 2005, effective Jan. 1, 2006 (916 So.2d 655); deleted May 21, 2015, effective Oct. 1, 2015 (164 So.3d 1217); Inactive status added Nov. 9, 2017, effective Feb 1, 2018 (234 So.3d 577).

RULE 6-3.8 REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

A certificate may be revoked by the board of legal specialization and education without hearing or advance notice for the following reasons:

(a) Termination of Area. If the program for certification in an area is terminated;

(b) Discipline. Disciplinary action is taken against a member pursuant to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar;

(c) Criminal Action. When a member is found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication is imposed or withheld, of any crime involving dishonesty or a felony; or

(d) Miscellaneous. When it is determined, after hearing on appropriate notice, that:

(1) the certificate was issued to a lawyer who was not eligible to receive a certificate or who made any false representation or misstatement of material fact to the certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education;

(2) the certificate holder failed to abide by all rules and regulations governing the program promulgated by the board of governors or the board of legal specialization and education as amended from time to time, including any requirement or safeguard for continued proficiency;

(3) the certificate holder failed to pay any fee established by the plan;

(4) the certificate holder no longer meets the qualifications established by the plan or the board of legal specialization and education; or

(5) the certificate holder engaged in misconduct that is inconsistent with the demonstration of special knowledge, skills, proficiency, or ethical conduct and professionalism.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252). Renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); December 8, 2005, the Supreme Court of Florida issued a revised version of its original October 6, 2005 opinion adopting this amendment, effective January 1, 2006 (SC05-206).

RULE 6-3.9 MANNER OF CERTIFICATION

(a) Listing Area of Certification. A member having received a certificate in an area may list the area on the member's letterhead, business cards, and office door, in the yellow pages of the telephone directory, in approved law lists, and by such other means permitted by the Rules of Professional Conduct. The listing may be made by stating one or more of the following: "Board Certified (area of certification) Lawyer;" "Specialist in (area of certification);" or use of initials "B.C.S.," to indicate Board Certified Specialist. If the initials "B.C.S." are used, the area(s) in which the member is board certified must be identified; if used in court documents or a non-advertising context, the initials may stand alone.

(b) Members of Law Firms. No law firm may list an area of certification for the firm, but membership in the firm does not impair an individual's eligibility to list areas of certification in accordance with this chapter. Except for the firm listing in the telephone directory, a law firm may show next to the names of any firm members their certification area(s).

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252). Renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (SC08-1890) (34 Fla.L.Weekly S628a).

RULE 6-3.10 RIGHT OF APPEAL

A lawyer who is refused certification or recertification, or whose certificate is revoked by the board of legal specialization and education, or any person who is aggrieved by a ruling or determination of that board shall have the right to appeal the ruling to the board of governors under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe. Exhaustion of this right of appeal shall be a condition precedent to judicial review by the Supreme Court of Florida. Such review shall be by petition for review in accordance with the procedures set forth in rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); May 20, 2004 - amended (SC03-705).

RULE 6-3.11 FEES

(a) Application Filing Fee. This fee is for the filing and review of an individual's certification or recertification application. This fee is not refundable.

(b) Examination/Certification Fee. This fee must be paid before taking the examination for certification or before an applicant who otherwise qualifies receives a certificate. This fee is not refundable.

(c) Annual Fee. This fee is assessed against each plan participant required to file an annual audit for a particular year. Collection of the fee coincides with the distribution of annual audit forms.

(d) Recertification Extension Fee. This fee is for extending the filing date of an application for recertification. This fee is not refundable.

(e) Challenge/Petition Filing Fee. This fee must accompany the filing of a challenge of an application denial or a petition for grade review. This fee is not refundable.

(f) Appeal Filing Fee. This fee must accompany the filing of an appeal. This fee is not refundable.

(g) Course Evaluation Fee. This fee is assessed against course sponsors that seek continuing legal education credit hours required under the plan. This fee is not refundable.

(h) Individual Credit Approval Fee. This fee is assessed against applicants or plan participants to cover administrative costs of processing a credit request where a sponsor has not sought course approval under the plan.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1). Amended May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (SC14-2107).

RULE 6-3.12 CONFIDENTIALITY

All matters including but not limited to applications, references, tests and test scores, files, reports, investigations, hearings, findings, and recommendations shall be confidential so far as consistent with the effective administration of this plan, fairness to the applicant, and due process of law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1).

RULE 6-3.13 AMENDMENTS

Standards for individual areas of certification may be amended by the board of governors consistent with the notice and publication requirements set forth in rule 1-12.1.

Adopted July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032). Renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1).

RULE 6-3.14 SUNSET OF CERTIFICATION AREAS

If any certification committee has not received an initial certification application for 5 consecutive years, the Board of Legal

Specialization and Education will petition the Supreme Court of Florida to close the certification area to initial applicants. The recertification standards of the certification area will remain in effect. When the Board of Legal Specialization and Education determines there have been no new initial certification applications for 5 consecutive years, the bar will post a notice on its website that no new applications will be accepted until the Supreme Court of Florida determines whether to close the certification area to initial applicants. The bar will then accept no new applicants for that area until the court makes its determination.

Adopted March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

6-4. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN CIVIL TRIAL LAW

RULE 6-4.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Civil Trial Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify lawyers who practice civil trial law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in civil trial law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-4.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Civil Trial Law. “Civil trial law” is the practice of law dealing with litigation of civil controversies in all areas of substantive law before Florida circuit courts or equivalent courts of other states, federal district courts, and state county courts. In addition to the pretrial and trial process, “civil trial law” includes evaluating, handling, and resolving civil controversies before the initiation of suit.

(b) Trial. A “trial” is the commencement of an in-court or in-chambers adversarial proceedings before the trier of fact at which testimony is taken that includes at least 2 components of a trial as defined below. A non-jury county court proceeding does not count as a trial for the purposes of board certification or recertification.

(c) Lead Counsel. “Lead counsel” is conducting a minimum of 50 percent of the in-court proceedings.

(d) Jury Trial. A “jury trial” is a case in which the jury is sworn and testimony is taken before concluding or settling a matter. A county court jury trial must result in a verdict rendered by the jury in order to count as a jury trial for purposes of board certification or recertification.

(e) Components of a Trial. The “components of a trial” are:

- (1) voir dire questioning;
- (2) opening statement;
- (3) direct examination;
- (4) cross examination; and
- (5) closing statement.

(f) Day in Trial. A “day in trial” is a minimum of 6 hours.

(g) Binding. “Binding” is when the parties are required to honor the court’s decision unless the decision is overturned under **law**.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective May 20, 2016 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective May 12, 2023 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-4.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement and Competence. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial

involvement and competence in civil trial law under the following standards.

(b) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have practiced law for at least 5 years of which at least 50 percent was spent actively participating in civil trial law. At least 3 years of this practice must have been immediately preceding the filing of the application or the applicant may have served as a judge of a court of general jurisdiction adjudicating civil trials matters during those 3 years.

(c) Minimum Number of Trials. The applicant must have handled and been substantially involved in the oral presentation of at least 15 contested civil trials, each involving substantial legal or factual issues, in courts of general jurisdiction. A circuit court jury trial of 6 or more trial days may be submitted for consideration as 2 trials only if the applicant personally completed at least 3 of 5 components of trial. A circuit court jury trial of 16 or more trial days may be submitted for consideration as 3 trials only if the applicant personally completed at least 3 of 5 components of trial.

Of these 15 trials:

(1) 5 must have been jury trials, and only 2 of those 5 may be county court jury trials;

(2) 5 must have been conducted by the applicant as lead counsel, and only 4 of those 5 may be county court jury trials;

(3) 5 must have been submitted to the trier of fact on some or all of the issues; and

(4) 2 jury trials and 2 trials conducted by the applicant as lead counsel must have been tried during the 5-year period immediately preceding filing the application.

(d) Non-qualifying Proceedings. The following matters or proceedings do not qualify as trials under this rule:

(1) mortgage foreclosures tried in less than 1 day;

(2) bankruptcy;

- (3) family law;
- (4) criminal law;
- (5) workers' compensation;
- (6) mediations and arbitrations;
- (7) administrative hearings under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes; and
- (8) summary judgments, evidentiary hearings, preliminary injunctions, and appellate proceedings.

(e) Substitutions. The applicant may submit a total of 3 substitutions if the applicant is unable to submit 15 trials. The following are acceptable substitutions.

(1) Evidentiary hearings, injunctions, or adversarial proceedings that are binding on the parties, involved the taking of testimony and submission of evidence, lasted at least 1 trial day, and involved substantial legal and factual issues as determined by the civil trial certification committee may be submitted for up to 3 substitutions.

(2) Completion of an advanced trial advocacy seminar approved by the civil trial certification committee either through teaching or attendance that includes active participation by the applicant in simulated courtroom proceedings may be submitted for up to 1 substitution.

(3) County court jury trials in which the applicant is lead counsel may be submitted for up to 2 substitutions as follows:

(A) a non-jury trial which results in a judgment; or

(B) a jury trial in which the applicant completes at least 2 components of the trial.

(f) Substantial Involvement and Competence Defined. The applicant must have substantial involvement in contested civil matters sufficient to demonstrate special competence in civil trial

law within the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application. Substantial involvement and competence is:

- (1) active participation in the litigation process, including the investigation and evaluation of civil disputes;
- (2) involvement in pretrial processes, including preparation of pleadings, discovery, and motion practice;
- (3) planning and review of strategy and tactics for trial;
- (4) participation in the process of mediation and settlement; and
- (5) the taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, and argument of jury or nonjury trials.

The civil trial certification committee may waive 2 of the 3-year substantial involvement requirement for individuals who have served as judges of courts of general jurisdiction adjudicating civil trial matters for good cause shown. The year immediately preceding filing the application will not be waived.

(g) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 6 lawyers, who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. Individuals submitted as references must be substantially involved in civil trial law and familiar with the applicant's practice. At least 1 must be a judge of a court of general jurisdiction in the state of Florida before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate in the 2 years immediately preceding filing the application.

(h) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in civil trial law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the civil trial certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(i) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination administered uniformly to all applicants, to demonstrate sufficient

knowledge, proficiency, and experience in civil trial law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended Feb. 17, 1995, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended January 9-10, 1997, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended June 3, 2005 by the Board of Governors; amended and effective May 20, 2016 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 1, 2023 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-4.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement and Competence. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement and competence in the practice of law, of which 50 percent has been spent in active participation in civil trial law throughout the period since the last date of certification under the standards in this subchapter. The applicant must describe any courtroom experience during the period since the previous certification, including motion practice, summary judgment and injunction hearings, arbitration proceedings, or any other court appearances involving the presentation of evidence and argument in an adversarial environment.

(b) Minimum Number of Trials. The applicant must have handled:

(1) 2 contested civil trials in courts of general jurisdiction, of which at least 1 was a jury trial conducted by the applicant as lead counsel, and 1 of which may be an evidentiary hearing or preliminary injunction; or

(2) 1 circuit court jury trial as lead counsel lasting a minimum of 6 or more trial days.

(c) Non-qualifying Proceedings. Proceedings listed as non-qualifying under the minimum standards for certification under this subchapter do not qualify as trials for recertification, except as provided above.

(d) Trial Substitution. One trial substitution may be submitted by a recertification applicant. All substitutions must comply with the minimum standards for initial applicants in this certification area.

(e) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 lawyers, 1 of whom is currently board certified in civil trial law and 1 judge of a court of general jurisdiction before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate within the 2 year period preceding application, to complete peer review forms. Individuals submitted as references must be sufficiently familiar with the applicant since the last date of certification. The names of lawyers who currently practice in the applicant's law firm may not be submitted as references.

(f) Education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of approved continuing legal education since the date of the last application for certification. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the civil trial law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(g) Waiver of Compliance.

(1) On special application, for good cause shown, the civil trial certification committee may waive compliance with any portion of the trial education, and peer review criteria for an applicant who is an officer of any judicial system (as defined in the Code of Judicial Conduct), including an officer such as a bankruptcy judge, special master, court commissioner, or magistrate, performing judicial functions on a full-time basis during any portion of the period since the last date of certification.

(2) On special application, for good cause shown, the civil trial certification committee may waive compliance with the trial criteria for an applicant who has been continuously certified as a civil trial lawyer for a period of 14 years or more.

(3) On special application, for good cause shown, the civil trial certification committee may waive compliance with the substantial involvement criteria for an applicant, otherwise qualified, who is substantially serving as a mediator, referee, master or magistrate and is actively involved in civil trial law. For purposes of this subsection only, the judicial peer review as required in this subchapter does not need to be a judge before whom the applicant has appeared as advocate within the 2 year period preceding application.

(4) On special application, for good cause shown, the civil trial certification committee may waive compliance with any portion of the trial and substantial involvement criteria for an applicant otherwise qualified who is not able to meet the requirements for recertification for health reasons.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Nov. 29, 1990, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (570 So.2d 1301); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1993, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended Feb. 17, 1995, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 16-18, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended Jan. 9-10, 1997, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended June 3, 2005 by the Board of Governors; amended and effective May 20, 2016 by the Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 1, 2023 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-5. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN TAX LAW

RULE 6-5.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Tax Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers

who practice in the area of taxation and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in tax law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120).
Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-5.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Tax Law. “Tax law” is legal issues involving federal, state, or local income, estate, gift, ad valorem, excise, or other taxes.

(b) Practice of Law. Notwithstanding anything in the definition to the contrary, legal work done primarily for a purpose other than legal advice or representation (including, but not limited to, work related to the sale of insurance or retirement plans or work in connection with the practice of a profession other than the law) shall not be treated as the practice of law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-5.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and must have been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the application date. The years of practice of law need not be consecutive. Receipt of an LL.M. degree in taxation or other related fields approved by the board of legal specialization and education and the tax certification committee from an approved law school may substitute for 1 year of the practice of law for purposes of the 5-year practice requirement, but not the 5-year bar membership requirement, under this subdivision. An applicant may not receive credit for more than 1 year of practice for any 12-month period under this subdivision; for example, an applicant who receives credit for being engaged in the practice of law will not

receive additional credit for an LL.M. degree earned in the same time period by attending night classes.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of tax law during the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. On the applicant's request and the recommendation of the tax certification committee, the board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that the 3 years be "immediately preceding" the application date for good cause shown. Substantial involvement is at least 500 hours per year in the practice of law in which the applicant has had substantial and direct participation in legal matters involving significant issues of tax law. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on tax law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during such period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the tax certification committee but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers who are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including lawyers who currently practice in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms. The board of legal specialization and education or the tax certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete at least 90 hours of continuing legal education requirements in tax law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date as established by the board of legal specialization and education.

(e) Examination. Every applicant must pass a written examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, and proficiency in the field of tax law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605

So.2d 252); amended Dec. 7-8, 1993, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-5.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the field of tax law throughout the period since the last date of certification as determined by the board of legal specialization and education and the tax certification committee under the standards for initial certification. The board of legal specialization and education or the tax certification committee may accept an affidavit from the applicant which attests to the applicant's proficiency in tax law consistent with the purpose of the substantial involvement requirement.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 125 hours of continuing legal education from the filing date of the last application for certification or recertification. Successful passage of the written examination given by the board of legal specialization and education to new applicants satisfies the continuing legal education requirements if the applicant has attained more than 60 hours since the last application date.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must complete the requirements for initial certification.

(d) Examination. If, after reviewing the material submitted by an applicant for recertification, the board of legal specialization and education and the tax certification committee determine that the applicant may not meet the standards in tax law established under this chapter, the board of legal specialization and education and the tax certification committee may require, as a condition of recertification, that the applicant pass the written examination given by the board of legal specialization and education to new applicants.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605

So.2d 252); amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended effective June 29, 2000, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**6-6. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN MARITAL
AND FAMILY LAW
RULE 6-6.1 GENERALLY**

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Marital and Family Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice marital and family law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism to be properly identified to the public as board certified marital and family lawyers. The standards also contain provisions to allow judicial officers who regularly preside over marital and family law cases to achieve board certification in marital and family law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Feb. 11, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.; Amended December 12, 2008 by the Board of Governors, effective December 12, 2008.

RULE 6-6.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Marital and Family Law. “Marital and family law” is the practice of law dealing with legal problems arising from the family relationship between spouses and between parent and child including civil controversies arising from those relationships. In addition to actual pretrial and trial process, “marital and family law” includes evaluating, handling, and resolving these controversies prior to and during the institution of suit and post judgment proceedings. The practice of marital and family law in the state of Florida is unique in that decisional, statutory, and procedural laws are specific to this state.

(b) Judicial Officers. “Judicial officers” includes judges, general magistrates, special magistrates, child support hearing officers, and private triers of fact appointed by court order.

(c) Trial. A “trial” is a matter submitted to and decided by the trier of fact for ultimate resolution by the court’s rendition of a judgment or order on at least 1 issue aside from the dissolution of the parties’ marriage where the applicant presided over the trial as a judicial officer or conducted as an advocate at least 1 direct and 1 cross-examination of at least 2 different witnesses, introduced at least 1 exhibit into evidence, and was responsible for at least a majority of the presentation of evidence or representation of the client.

(d) Substantial Involvement. “Substantial involvement” is active participation in client interviewing, counseling, and investigating; preparation of pleadings; participation in discovery beyond mandatory disclosure; taking of testimony; presentation of evidence; attendance at hearings; negotiations of settlement; attendance at mediation; drafting and preparation of marital settlement agreements; and argument and trial of marital and family law cases. Substantial involvement also includes active participation in the appeal of marital and family law cases.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 11, 1999; December 12, 2008 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-6.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LAWYER APPLICANTS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have at least 5 years of the actual practice of law immediately preceding application, of which at least 50 percent has been spent in active participation of marital and family law.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have trial experience and substantial involvement as set forth in this rule during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application

date. All 25 cases must have involved substantial legal or factual issues other than the dissolution of marriage. In each of these 25 cases, the applicant must have been responsible for at least a majority of the presentation of evidence and representation of the client.

At least 7 of the 25 cases must have been trials as defined in these rules. An advanced trial advocacy seminar approved by the marital and family law certification committee completed either by teaching, attendance, or a combination qualifies as 1 of the 7 trials.

The determination of whether the applicant has sufficiently demonstrated substantial involvement in each case submitted is made on a qualitative basis by the marital and family law certification committee using the information provided by the applicant. The marital and family law certification committee reserves the right to seek additional information from the applicant as it deems necessary to make its determination that the minimum number of cases requirement has been met.

(c) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit names and addresses of 6 lawyers who are neither current nor former associates or partners of the applicant within the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application to complete peer review forms. At least 3 of the lawyers must be members of The Florida Bar with their principal office located in the state of Florida. Such lawyers need not be Florida Bar board certified in marital and family law, however, they should be substantially involved in marital and family law and familiar with the applicant's practice. All lawyer references must have participated with the applicant as either opposing or co-counsel in a marital and family law or juvenile dependency proceeding involving some combination of discovery beyond mandatory disclosure, settlement negotiations, evidentiary hearings in excess of 3 hours, trials, or alternative dispute resolution mechanism such as collaborative law, mediation, or arbitration during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 judicial officers who have presided in circuit courts in Florida and before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate in a trial or an evidentiary hearing of at least 3 hours in length for a marital and family law or juvenile dependency case during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 75 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of marital and family law during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date. At least 5 of the 75 credit hours must be in ethics, dispute resolution, collaborative law, or mental health continuing legal education. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the marital and family law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination applied uniformly to all applicants, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, experience, and professionalism in marital and family law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 11, 1999; December 12, 2008 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-6.4 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS

The applicant may be eligible for board certification if the applicant has served as a judicial officer within the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date and complies with the following standards.

(a) Minimum Period of Practice or Judicial Service. The applicant must have devoted at least 50 percent of the applicant's practice or judicial service to marital and family law cases during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(b) Minimum Number of Cases. The applicant must have trial experience and substantial involvement as set forth in this rule as a judicial officer who presided over or as an advocate who handled a minimum of 25 contested marital and family law cases in circuit courts during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date. All 25 cases must have involved substantial legal or factual issues other than the dissolution of marriage.

(1) *Trial Experience.* At least 7 of the 25 cases must have been trials as defined in this subchapter. The skill-set inherent in presiding over a marital and family law case as a judicial officer encompasses all of the special knowledge, skills, proficiency, and ethics that the marital and family law certification committee finds sufficient to meet the trial requirements for certification. The applicant must have presided over or acted as an advocate in 7 contested evidentiary trials where at least 1 direct and 1 cross-examination of at least 2 different witnesses was conducted and at least 1 piece of evidence was introduced as an exhibit. The applicant must have been responsible for at least a majority of the presentation of evidence or representation of the client if the applicant handled the cases as an advocate. Completion of an advanced trial advocacy seminar approved by the marital and family law certification committee teaching, attendance, or a combination qualifies as 1 of the 7 trials.

(2) *Substantial Involvement.* The applicant must have substantial involvement as defined in this subdivision in at least 18 contested marital and family law cases to demonstrate special competence in marital and family law. Any trials in excess of the 7 trials meeting the criteria of trial experience in this rule automatically qualify as substantial involvement cases.

The determination of whether the applicant has sufficiently demonstrated substantial involvement in each case submitted will be made on a qualitative basis by the marital and family law certification committee using the information provided by the applicant. The marital and family law certification committee may require additional information from the applicant to make its determination that the minimum number of cases requirement has been met.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit names and addresses of 6 lawyers who are neither current nor former associates or partners of the applicant within the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application to complete peer review forms. At least 5 of the lawyers must be members of The Florida Bar, with their principal office located in the state of Florida. Such lawyers need not be Florida Bar board certified in marital and family law, however, they should be substantially involved in marital and family law and familiar with the applicant's judicial service. Judicial references are not required.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete at least 75 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of marital and family law during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date. At least 5 of the 75 credit hours must be in ethics, dispute resolution, collaborative law, or mental health continuing legal education.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Feb. 11, 1999; December 12, 2008 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-6.5 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Minimum Period of Practice or Judicial Service. The applicant must have devoted at least 30 percent of the applicant's practice or judicial service to marital and family law cases.

(b) Minimum Number of Cases. The applicant must have trial experience and substantial involvement as set forth in this rule as a judicial officer who presided over or as an advocate who handled a minimum of 15 contested marital and family law cases in circuit courts. All 15 cases must have involved substantial legal or factual issues other than the dissolution of marriage.

(1) *Trial Experience.* At least 5 of the 15 cases must have been trials as defined in this chapter. The skill set inherent in presiding over a marital and family law case as a judicial officer encompasses all of the special knowledge, skills, proficiency, and ethics that the marital and family law certification committee finds sufficient to meet the trial requirements for recertification. An advanced trial advocacy seminar approved by the marital and family law certification committee completed either by teaching, attendance, or a combination qualifies as 1 of the 5 trials.

(2) *Substantial Involvement.* The applicant must have substantial involvement as defined in this chapter in at least 10 contested marital and family law cases to demonstrate special competence as a marital and family lawyer or as a judicial officer presiding over marital and family law cases. Any trials in excess of the 5 trials meeting the criteria of trial experience in this rule automatically qualify as substantial involvement cases. The skill set inherent in presiding over a marital and family law case as a judicial officer encompasses all of the special knowledge, skills, proficiency, and ethics that the marital and family law certification committee finds sufficient to meet the substantial involvement requirements for recertification.

The determination of whether the applicant has sufficiently demonstrated involvement in each case submitted is made on a qualitative basis by the marital and family law certification committee using the information provided by the applicant. The marital and family law certification committee reserves the right to seek additional information from the applicant to make its determination that the minimum number of cases requirement has been met.

(3) On special application, for good cause shown, the marital and family law certification committee may waive compliance with rule 6-6.5(b)(1) and/or (2) for an applicant who has been continuously certified in marital and family law for a period of 14 years. The applicant shall be required to complete all sections of the application for recertification with the exception of schedule B-1.

(c) Education. The applicant must have completed at least 75 hours of approved continuing legal education in accordance with rule 6-6.3(d).

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit references and otherwise comply with rule 6-6.3(c) or 6-6.4(c). Judicial peer review is not required for judicial officers seeking recertification.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended Feb. 17, 1995, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Feb. 11, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-7. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES LAW RULE 6-7.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Wills, Trusts, and Estates Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of wills, trusts, and estates and have demonstrated special knowledge, skills, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in wills, trusts, and estates law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-7.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Wills, Trusts, and Estates. “Wills, trusts, and estates” is the practice of law dealing with all aspects of the analysis and planning for the conservation and disposition of estates, giving due consideration to the applicable tax consequences, both federal and state; the preparation of legal instruments to effectuate estate plans; administering estates, including tax related matters, both federal and state; and probate litigation.

(b) Practice of Law. Notwithstanding anything in the definition to the contrary, legal work done primarily for any purpose other than legal advice or representation (including, but not limited to, work related to the sale of insurance or retirement plans or work in connection with the practice of a profession other than the law) shall not be treated as the practice of law. Practice of law that otherwise satisfies these requirements but that is on a part-time basis will satisfy the requirement if the balance of the applicant's activity is spent as a teacher of wills, trusts, and estates subjects in an accredited law school.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032).

RULE 6-7.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and must have been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the application date.

Receipt of an LL.M. degree in taxation or estate planning and probate or other related fields approved by the board of legal specialization and education and wills, trusts, and estates certification committee from an approved law school will substitute for 1 year of the practice of law for purposes of the 5-year practice requirement, but not the 5-year bar membership requirement, under this subdivision. An applicant may not receive credit for more than 1 year of practice for any 12-month period under this subdivision. For example, an applicant who receives credit for being engaged in the practice of law will not receive additional credit for an LL.M. degree earned in the same time period by attending night classes. Practice of law that otherwise satisfies these requirements but that is on a part-time basis will satisfy the requirement if the balance of the applicant's activity is spent as a teacher of wills, trusts, and estates subjects in an accredited law school.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of law in estate planning, planning for incapacity, administration of estates and trusts, fiduciary and transfer taxation, probate and trust law, estates and trust litigation, and homestead law during the 5 years immediately preceding the application date, including devoting not less than 40 percent of practice to estate planning, planning for incapacity, administration of estates and trusts, fiduciary and transfer taxation, probate and trust law, estates and trust litigation, and homestead law in this state during each of the 2 years immediately preceding application. Service as a judge in the probate division of the circuit court of this state for 6 months or more of a calendar year satisfies 1 year of substantial involvement. Except for the 2 years immediately preceding application, the board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that the 5 years be “immediately preceding” the application date on an applicant’s request and the recommendation of the wills, trusts, and estates certification committee for good cause shown. Except for the 2 years immediately preceding application, receipt of an LL.M. degree in estate planning and probate (or such other degree containing substantial estate planning and probate content as approved by the board of legal specialization and education) from an approved law school may substitute for 1 year of substantial involvement. An applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on wills, trusts, and estates substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during the same period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the wills, trusts, and estates certification committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers who are familiar with the applicant’s practice, not including lawyers who currently practice in the applicant’s law firm, to complete peer review forms. The board of legal specialization and education and the wills, trusts, and estates certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 90 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of wills, trusts, and estates during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination that will be practical and comprehensive and designed to demonstrate special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in estate planning, postmortem planning, planning for incapacity, administration of estates and trusts, fiduciary and transfer taxation, substantive and procedural aspects of probate and trust law, estates and trust litigation, homestead law, joint tenancies, tenancies by the entirety, conflicts of interest, and other ethical considerations. Such examination shall justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-7.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement and Competence. **The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the practice of law, of which more than 40 percent during each year after certification or prior recertification under the standards for initial certification.**

(b) Education. **The applicant must complete 125 hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of wills, trusts, and estates since the date of the last application for certification.**

(c) **Peer Review.** The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 individuals who are active in wills, trusts, and

estates to complete peer review forms including, but not limited to, lawyers, trust officers, certified public accountants, and judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, excluding persons who are currently employed by or practice in the applicant's law firm, who can attest to the applicant's reputation for professional competence and substantial involvement in the field of wills, trusts, and estates law during the period since the last certification date.

(d) Examination Requirement. If, after reviewing the material submitted by an applicant for recertification and the peer review, the wills, trusts, and estates certification committee determines the applicant may not meet the standards for wills, trusts, and estates certification established under this chapter, the wills, trusts, and estates certification committee may require, as a condition of recertification, that the applicant pass the examination given by the wills, trusts, and estates certification committee to new applicants.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-8. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN CRIMINAL LAW RULE 6-8.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar who meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as either "Board Certified in Criminal Trial Law" or "Board Certified in Criminal Appellate Law." An applicant may qualify for certification under both categories provided the applicant meets the standards for each category. The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice criminal law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in criminal trial or appellate law.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Feb. 11, 1999; August 17, 2007. by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-8.2 DEFINITIONS AND COMMITTEE

(a) Criminal Law. “Criminal law” is the practice of law dealing with the defense and prosecution of misdemeanor and felony crimes in state and federal trial and appellate courts.

(b) Criminal Law Certification Committee. At least 2 members of the criminal law certification committee must be certified in criminal appellate law. At least 5 members must be certified criminal trial law.

(c) Trials. A “trial” is substantially preparing a case for court, offering testimony or evidence, cross-examining a witness in an adversarial proceeding before a trier of fact, and submission of a case to the trier of fact for determination of the ultimate fact of guilt or innocence. Trials include the following.

(1) *Jimmy Ryce Involuntary Civil Commitment Act of 1998 Trials.* A trial conducted under the Jimmy Ryce Involuntary Civil Commitment Act of 1998 may be considered a trial for certification or recertification; however, only 60 percent of the total trial requirement for certification or recertification may be based on this type of case.

(2) *Trials Resulting in a Dismissal of Charges.* A case resulting in a dismissal of charges by the court on a motion for judgment of acquittal at or after the close of the prosecution's case may be considered a trial for certification and recertification.

(3) *Trials Resulting in Mistrials or Pleas.* A trial resulting in a mistrial or plea after the presentation of testimony or evidence or after cross examination of a witnesses in an adversarial proceeding before a trier of fact may be considered a trial for certification or recertification at the discretion of the criminal law certification committee if the applicant offers sufficient information demonstrating substantial courtroom activity.

(4) *Violation of Probation, Suppression, and Competency Hearings.* Violation of probation, suppression, and competency hearings may be considered a trial under the trial requirement for certification or recertification at the discretion of the criminal law certification committee if the applicant offers sufficient information demonstrating substantial courtroom activity. These hearings may not be used to meet the jury or felony trial requirements.

(5) *Stand Your Ground Hearings.* A stand your ground hearing may be considered a trial for initial certification or recertification at the discretion of the criminal law certification committee if the applicant offers sufficient information demonstrating substantial courtroom activity.

(6) *Military Trials.* A general court martial before a judge may be considered a felony jury trial for certification or recertification, but a discharge board may not be used to meet the jury trial requirement.

(7) *Juvenile Delinquency Adjudicatory Hearings.* A juvenile delinquency adjudicatory hearing under Florida statutes may be considered a trial for certification or recertification. These hearings may not be used to meet the jury trial requirement.

(8) *Post-Conviction Relief.* The filing of a motion for post-conviction relief or response and conducting an evidentiary hearing may be considered a jury trial for certification or recertification if the applicant demonstrates substantial courtroom activity. Only 30 percent of the total requirement for criminal trial certification may be used on actions involving post-conviction relief.

(d) Appellate Action. Appellate actions include the following.

(1) *Appellate Jurisdiction Filings.* The filing of an initial brief, answer brief, or reply brief in a Florida or federal court of appellate jurisdiction in a criminal matter is an appellate action. This includes direct defense and state appeals as well as appeals from orders denying or granting motions for post-conviction relief. The filing of both an initial and reply brief in the same case will count as 1 appellate action. No more than 10 percent of the total requirement for criminal appellate certification or recertification

may be based on appellate actions involving the filing of only a reply brief or an initial brief filed under *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967).

(2) *Supreme Court of Florida Filings*. The filing of a jurisdiction brief, initial brief, answer brief, or reply brief with the Supreme Court of Florida in capital cases brought under a petition for discretionary review of a district court of appeal is an appellate action.

(3) *Extraordinary Writs*. The filing of or responding to a petition for writ of mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, certiorari, or any other extraordinary writ in a Florida or federal court of appellate jurisdiction is an appellate action.

(4) *Jimmy Ryce Involuntary Civil Commitment Act of 1998 Trials*. A trial conducted under the Jimmy Ryce Involuntary Civil Commitment Act of 1998 may be considered an appellate action for certification or recertification; however, only 60 percent of the total appellate action requirement for certification or recertification may be based on this type of case.

(5) *Post-Conviction Relief*. The filing of a motion for post-conviction relief or the filing of a response may be considered an appellate action for certification or recertification. Only 30 percent of the total requirement for criminal appellate certification may be used on actions involving post-conviction relief.

(6) *Miscellaneous*. Any other criminal appellate actions that the criminal law certification committee considers substantive is an appellate action.

(e) Protracted Litigation. “Protracted litigation” is litigation that proceeds on a long-term basis involving unusual and complicated legal or factual matters, extensive discovery, or court hearings or trial and is so time consuming it precludes the applicant from meeting the numerical trial or appellate requirement.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 11, 1999; August 17,

2007, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-8.3 CRIMINAL TRIAL; MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement and Competence. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement and competence in criminal trial law to become certified as a criminal trial lawyer. Substantial involvement and competence includes the following.

(1) *Trial Experience.* Twenty-five criminal trials are required. Of these 25 trials, at least 20 must have been jury trials tried to verdict, at least 15 must have involved felony charges, and at least 10 must have been conducted by the applicant as lead counsel. At least 5 of the 25 cases must have been tried during the 5 years immediately preceding application.

(2) *Memorandum.* Submission of a criminal trial court memorandum or brief prepared and filed by the applicant within the 3-year period immediately preceding application must be substantial in nature, state facts, and argue various aspects of criminal law. The quality of this memorandum or brief will be considered in determining whether the applicant is qualified for certification.

(3) *Substantial Involvement.* At least 30 percent of 5 years must be in criminal trial law as an advocate or as a judge of a court of general jurisdiction adjudicating criminal trial matters. At least 3 years must be immediately preceding application. The 30-percent requirement is cumulative over the 5 years preceding application but must be at least 30 percent during each of the 3 years immediately preceding application. The applicant's substantial involvement must be sufficient to demonstrate special competence as a criminal trial lawyer within the 3 years immediately preceding the application. Substantial involvement includes investigation, evaluation, pleading, discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, and argument of jury or non-jury cases. For good cause shown, the criminal law certification

committee may waive 2 of the 3 years of substantial involvement for individuals who have served as judges. In no event may the year immediately preceding application be waived.

(b) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 4 lawyers to complete peer review forms.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on criminal trial matters during the 2-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application or before whom the applicant has tried a criminal trial to jury verdict to complete peer review forms.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete at least 45 hours of continuing legal education requirements necessary for criminal trial certification during the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of an application as established by the board of legal specialization and education. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the criminal law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(d) Examination. Every applicant must pass an examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, and experience in criminal trial law, application of constitutional principles, and rules of criminal procedure to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended June 18, 1987, effective July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); amended April 14-15, 1994, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Feb. 11, 1999; August 17, 2007, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-8.4 CRIMINAL TRIAL RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of law, of which at least 30 percent must have been spent in active participation in criminal trial law. Substantial involvement includes investigation, evaluation, pleading, discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, and argument of jury or non-jury cases.

(b) Criminal Trials. The applicant must have completed the trial of a minimum of 5 criminal cases as either an advocate or presiding judge. Of these 5 cases, at least 4 must have been jury trials and at least 3 must have involved felony charges. On good cause shown, for satisfaction in part of the 5 criminal trials, the criminal law certification committee may consider involvement in protracted litigation as defined elsewhere in this subchapter. On good cause shown, for satisfaction in part of the 5 criminal trials, the criminal law certification committee may consider, in its discretion, involvement in protracted litigation as defined elsewhere in this subchapter.

The proceedings that may serve as a trial for recertification purposes include, but are not limited to, the following.

(1) A case that results in a dismissal of charges by the court on a motion for judgment of acquittal after the close of the prosecution's case is a trial for recertification purposes.

(2) A case that results in a mistrial or plea may be counted as a trial at the discretion of the committee if the applicant offers sufficient information demonstrating substantial courtroom activity.

(3) A violation of probation or post-conviction relief proceeding may be counted as the 1 non-jury trial of the 5 trials for

recertification if the applicant offers sufficient information demonstrating substantial courtroom activity.

(4) A court martial before a judge may be counted as a trial, but discharge boards are considered non-jury.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete at least 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education for criminal trial law certification.

(d) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 4 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. Such lawyers must be substantially involved in criminal trial law and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on criminal trial matters during the 2-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application or before whom the applicant has tried a criminal trial to jury verdict to complete peer review forms.

(e) Waiver of Compliance. On special application, for good cause shown, the criminal law certification committee may waive compliance with the trial criteria for an applicant who has been continuously certified as a criminal trial lawyer for a period of 14 years or more, provided the applicant:

(1) satisfies the peer review and education required in subdivisions (c) and (d) of this rule; and,

(2) demonstrates substantial involvement in criminal trial law defined, for purposes of this subdivision, as active participation in the litigation process, including the investigation and evaluation of criminal charges, involvement in pretrial processes such as discovery and motion practice, and the review of strategy and tactics for trial. The applicant shall describe the

extent of substantial involvement, including courtroom and trial experience, since the last date of recertification.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Nov. 29, 1990, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (570 So.2d 1301); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 11, 1999; August 17, 2007, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020. .

RULE 6-8.5 CRIMINAL APPELLATE; MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement and Competence. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement and competence in criminal appellate law as described below to become certified as a criminal appellate lawyer.

(1) *Appellate Action Requirement.* The applicant must have acted as advocate or judge for at least 25 criminal appellate actions. The appellate action requirement may be satisfied by protracted litigation as defined elsewhere in these rules on good cause shown and at the criminal law certification committee's discretion. The applicant must obtain a letter from the applicant's supervising judge stating the number of appellate actions in which the applicant participated while employed by that judge if any of the applicant's appellate actions occurred while the applicant was a judicial clerk or staff attorney and the rules of court prevent the applicant from enumerating those appellate actions.

(2) *Appellate Pleadings.* The applicant must submit 1 copy of the pleadings filed in 2 recent criminal appellate proceedings.

(3) *Substantial Involvement.* The applicant must have at least 5 years of the practice of law of which at least 30 percent has been spent in active participation in criminal appellate law. Three of the 5 years must be immediately preceding application as advocate or judge. Substantial involvement includes brief writing, motion practice, oral arguments, and extraordinary writs sufficient to demonstrate special competence as a criminal appellate lawyer. Service as a judge in criminal court substitutes for 2 of the 3 years

of substantial involvement. In no event may the year immediately preceding application be waived.

(b) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 4 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. Such lawyers shall be substantially involved in criminal appellate law and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on criminal appellate matters during the 2-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application to complete peer review forms.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete at least 45 hours of continuing legal education necessary for criminal appellate law certification during the 3-year-period immediately preceding the filing of an application as established by the board of legal specialization and education. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the criminal law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(d) Examination. Every applicant must pass an examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, and experience in criminal appellate law, application of constitutional principles, and rules of criminal and appellate procedure to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended June 18, 1987, effective July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 11, 1999; August 17, 2007, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective July 23, 2021 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-8.6 CRIMINAL APPELLATE RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have substantial involvement in the practice of law, of which at least 30 percent must have been spent in active participation in criminal appellate law, to demonstrate special competence as a criminal appellate lawyer. Substantial involvement includes brief writing, motion practice, oral arguments, and extraordinary writs.

(b) Appellate Actions. The applicant must have acted as an advocate or a judge for at least 10 criminal appellate actions. On good cause shown, for satisfaction in part of the 10 appellate actions, the criminal law certification committee may consider involvement in protracted litigation as defined in the rules for this certification area. An applicant who has completed at least 8 criminal appellate actions may substitute protracted litigation for 2 criminal appellate actions. The applicant may substitute up to 2 out-of-state criminal appellate actions. The applicant must obtain a letter from the applicant's supervising judge stating the number of appellate actions in which the applicant participated while employed by that judge if any of the applicant's appellate actions occurred while the applicant was a judicial clerk or staff attorney and the rules of court prevented the applicant from enumerating those appellate actions.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education for criminal appellate law certification.

(d) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 4 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. Such lawyers shall be substantially involved in criminal appellate law and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on criminal appellate matters during the 2-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application to complete peer review forms.

(e) Waiver of Compliance. On special application, for good cause shown, the criminal law certification committee may waive compliance with the appellate action criteria for an applicant who has been continuously certified as a criminal appellate lawyer for a period of 14 years or more, provided the applicant:

(1) satisfies the peer review and education required in subdivisions (c) and (d) of this rule; and,

(2) demonstrates substantial involvement in criminal appellate law defined, for purposes of this subdivision, as active participation in the appellate process, including the investigation and evaluation of criminal appeals, and the review of strategy and tactics for appeals. The applicant shall describe the extent of substantial involvement, including briefs written and oral arguments attended, since the last date of recertification.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Nov. 29, 1990, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (570 So.2d 1301); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 11, 1999; August 17, 2007, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-9. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN REAL ESTATE LAW

RULE 6-9.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Real Estate Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice Florida real estate law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in real estate law. The practice of Florida

real estate law is unique to the State of Florida because of the unique history, geographic features of the state, and the evolution of its constitutional, statutory, and decisional law. Accordingly, the standards require that lawyers seeking certification demonstrate a degree of practical knowledge and experience in Florida real estate law and transactions.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); amended January 30, 2004 by the Board of Governors; amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-9.2 DEFINITIONS

“Real estate law” is the practice of law dealing with matters relating to ownership and rights in real property including, but not limited to, the examination of titles, real estate conveyances and other transfers, leases, sales and other transactions involving real estate, condominiums, cooperatives, property owners associations and planned developments, interval ownership, zoning and land use planning regulation, real estate development and financing, real estate litigation, and the determination of property rights, regardless of jurisdiction.

Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Nov. 21, 1997, by the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar; Amendment approved by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar on January 30, 2004; Board of Governors approved amendment on January 30, 2004; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-9.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and must have been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years, 3 of which meet the requirement of substantial involvement in this rule as of the date of filing an application. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have substantial involvement in the practice of real estate law during the 3 years immediately preceding the application date sufficient to demonstrate special competence as a real estate lawyer. At least 40 percent of the applicant's practice must have been devoted to matters in which issues of real estate law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation. The applicant must also demonstrate that the applicant's real estate practice includes experience and involvement with Florida real estate law and transactions. The board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that the 3 years be immediately preceding the application date on the applicant's request and the recommendation of the real estate certification committee for good cause shown. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on real estate law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the real estate certification committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 individuals to complete peer review forms. At least 4 of the 5 references must be lawyers or judges and at least 3 of the lawyer references must be members of The Florida Bar. The board of legal specialization and education and the real estate certification committee may authorize references from non-Florida lawyers, judges, and nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 45 hours of continuing legal education approved for credit in real estate law by the board of legal specialization and education during the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of filing an application.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass a written examination that is practical, objective, and designed to demonstrate special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in real estate

law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended January 30, 2004 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar, amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-9.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have substantial involvement in real estate law throughout the period since the last date of certification of at least 40 percent during each year after certification prior to recertification is made under the minimum standards for the substantial involvement requirement for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 75 hours of accredited continuing legal education approved for credit in real estate law by the board of legal specialization and education since the filing of the last application for certification.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 individuals at least 3 of whom are licensed to practice law in Florida and are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including lawyers who currently practice in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms. At least 4 of the 5 references must be lawyers or judges and at least 3 of the lawyer references must be members of the Florida Bar.

Amended effective Oct. 29, 1987 (515 So.2d 977); amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended January 30, 2004 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Due to recent amendments to rule 6-9.3, the BLSE removed the sentence, "The maximum number of hours for those educational activities set forth in rule 6-9.3(d)(2)-(6) shall also apply for recertification." from subdivision (b) of rule 6-9.4; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-10. CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT RULE

RULE 6-10.1 CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

(a) Preamble. It is of primary importance to the public and to the members of The Florida Bar that lawyers continue their legal education throughout the period of their active practice of law. To accomplish that objective, each member of The Florida Bar (referred to below as “member”) must meet minimum requirements for continuing legal education.

(b) Reporting Requirement. Each member except those exempt under rule 6-10.3(c) must report compliance with continuing legal education requirements in the manner set forth in the policies adopted for administration of this plan. Members must apply for and receive approval by the bar of an exemption from compliance and reporting of continuing legal education under subdivisions (c)(1) through (c)(3) of rule 6-10.3. Members described in subdivisions (c)(4) through (c)(6) of rule 6-10.3 are automatically exempt from compliance and reporting of continuing legal education.

(c) Fees. The board of governors of The Florida Bar may require a reasonable fee to be paid to The Florida Bar in connection with each member’s report concerning compliance with continuing legal education requirements.

(d) Rules. The board of legal specialization and education of The Florida Bar adopts policies necessary to implement continuing legal education requirements subject to the approval of the board of governors.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252), amended November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1962).

RULE 6-10.2 ADMINISTRATION

(a) Board of Legal Specialization and Education. The board of legal specialization and education administers the continuing legal education requirements as provided in this rule. Any member

affected by an adverse decision of the board of legal specialization and education may appeal as provided in rule 6-10.5.

(b) Delegation of Authority. The board of legal specialization and education may delegate to the staff of The Florida Bar any responsibility set forth in this rule, except granting a waiver from continuing legal education requirements.

(c) Scope of Board of Legal Specialization and Education Activities. The board of legal specialization and education cooperates with and answers inquiries from staff on continuing legal education requirements and makes recommendations to the board of governors on continuing legal education requirements, including but not limited to:

- (1) approved education courses;
- (2) approved alternative education methods;
- (3) number of credit hours' to be allowed for education efforts;
- (4) established educational standards for satisfaction and completion of approved courses;
- (5) additional areas of education or practice approved for credit under continuing legal education requirements;
- (6) modification or expansion of continuing legal education requirements;
- (7) adoption of additional standards or regulations for continuing legal education requirements;
- (8) amount of reporting or delinquency fees; and
- (9) general administration of continuing legal education requirements.

(d) Maintenance of Records. The Florida Bar maintains a record of each member's compliance with continuing legal education requirements.

(e) Extensions. The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion for continuing legal education requirements on the executive director or board of governors' request for good cause shown, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) national or regional emergency;
- (2) flood, fire, hurricane, extended extreme weather, or explosion;
- (3) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine;
- (4) war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts;
- (5) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or political unrest; or
- (6) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation, mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

Requests for extensions from individual members will not be considered.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

RULE 6-10.3 MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION STANDARDS

(a) Applicability. Every member must comply and report compliance with the continuing legal education requirement except those exempt under subdivision (c) of this rule. Members must apply for and receive approval by the bar of an exemption from compliance and reporting of continuing legal education under subdivisions (c)(1) through (c)(3) of this rule. Members described in subdivisions (c)(4) through (c)(6) of this rule are automatically

exempt from compliance and reporting of continuing legal education.

(b) Minimum Hourly Continuing Legal Education

Requirements. Every member must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved continuing legal education activity every 3 years. At least 3 of the 30 credit hours must be in approved technology courses. At least 5 of the 30 credit hours must be in approved legal ethics, professionalism, substance abuse, or mental health and wellness courses; as part of the 5 credit hours, each member must complete, during each reporting cycle, the 2-credit hour Florida Legal Professionalism course produced by The Florida Bar and approved by the Supreme Court of Florida. Completion of the basic skills course that is certified as including the curriculum of the court-approved Florida Legal Professionalism course complies with the 2-credit hour professionalism requirement. If a member completes more than 30 credit hours during any reporting cycle, the excess credits cannot be carried over to the next reporting cycle.

(c) Exemptions.

(1) Automatic Exemption. The following are automatically exempt from continuing legal education requirements without application:

(A) members of the full-time federal judiciary who are prohibited from engaging in the private practice of law;

(B) justices of the Supreme Court of Florida; judges of the district courts of appeal, circuit courts, and county courts; and other judicial officers and employees as designated by the Supreme Court of Florida; and

(C) inactive Florida Bar members.

(2) Application for Exemption. A Florida Bar member may apply for and be granted an exemption from compliance and reporting of continuing legal education for:

(A) active military service;

(B) undue hardship; or

(C) residing outside the state of Florida and not delivering legal services or advice on matters or issues governed by Florida law while a nonresident.

(d) Course Approval. Course approval is set forth in policies adopted under this rule. Courses sponsored by governmental agencies for employee lawyers are exempt from any course approval fee and may exempt these courses from other requirements under policies adopted by the board of legal specialization and education. The board of legal specialization and education may not approve any course submitted by a sponsor, including a section of The Florida Bar, that uses quotas based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation in the selection of course faculty or participants.

(e) Accreditation of Hours. Accreditation standards are set forth in the policies adopted under this rule. Any course presented, sponsored, or approved for credit by an organized integrated or voluntary state bar is deemed an approved course for purposes of this rule if the course meets the criteria for accreditation established by policies adopted under this rule.

(f) Full-time Government Employees. Credit hours will be given to full-time government employees for courses presented by governmental agencies. Application for credit approval may be submitted by the full-time government lawyer before or after attendance without charge.

(g) Skills Training Preadmission. The board of legal specialization and education may approve a basic-skills or entry-level training course developed and presented by a governmental entity for continuing legal education requirement credit. Credit earned through attendance at an approved course developed and presented by a governmental entity is applicable under subdivision (b) of this rule if taken within 12 months before admission to The Florida Bar.

(h) Pro Bono Service Credit. A member may receive 1 general credit hour for every hour of pro bono service as defined in

these rules, not to exceed 5 credit hours during a 3-year reporting cycle. Credit will not be awarded for monetary donations.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended March 30, 1989, effective March 31, 1989 (541 So.2d 110); Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (SC08-1890) (34 Fla.L.Weekly S628a); September 29, 2016, effective January 1, 2017 (SC16-574), 200 So.3d 1225; amended Jan. 4, 2019, effective March 5, 2019 (SC18-1683); amended April 15, 2021, effective January 1, 2022 (SC21-284); amended February 2, 2023, effective April 3, 2023 (SC22-1291); amended July 6, 2023, effective January 8, 2024 (SC2023-0884; amended February 29, 2024, effective January 8, 2024 (SC23-1412); amended October 31, 2024, effective December 30, 2024 (SC2024-0964).

RULE 6-10.4 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Required Reporting. Each member must report compliance with the continuing legal education requirement in the form prescribed by the board of legal specialization and education unless exempt under these rules.

(b) Time for Filing. Each member must report required credit hours with The Florida Bar no later than the last day of the member's applicable reporting period as assigned by The Florida Bar.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (SC08-1890) (34 Fla.L.Weekly S628a), amended November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1962); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

RULE 6-10.5 DELINQUENCY AND APPEAL

(a) Delinquency. If a member fails to complete and report the minimum required continuing legal education hours by the end of the applicable reporting period, the member shall be deemed

delinquent in accordance with rule 1-3.6, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

(b) Appeal to the Board of Governors. A member deemed delinquent may appeal to the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Appeals to the board of governors shall be governed by the policies promulgated under these rules.

(c) Appeal to the Supreme Court of Florida. A decision of the board of governors may be appealed by the affected member to the Supreme Court of Florida. Such review shall be by petition for review in accordance with the procedures set forth in rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

(d) Exhaustion of Remedies. A member must exhaust each of the remedies provided under these rules in the order enumerated before proceeding to the next remedy.

(e) Tolling Time for Compliance. An appeal shall toll the time a member has for showing compliance with continuing legal education requirements.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (SC08-1890) (34 Fla.L.Weekly S628a).

RULE 6-10.6 REINSTATEMENT

A member deemed delinquent for failure to meet the continuing legal education requirement may be reinstated in accordance with rule 1-3.7, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Feb. 15, 1990 (556 So.2d 1119); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (SC08-1890) (34 Fla.L.Weekly S628a).

RULE 6-10.7 CONFIDENTIALITY

The files, records, and proceedings of the board of legal specialization and education, related to or arising from any failure of a member to satisfy the continuing legal education requirements, are confidential and may not be disclosed, except in the furtherance of the duties of the board of legal specialization and education or on the written request of the member or as introduced in evidence or otherwise produced in proceedings under these rules, unless directed otherwise by the Supreme Court of Florida. Nothing in this rule prohibits The Florida Bar from advising that a member is not eligible to practice law for failure to meet continuing legal education requirements.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252), amended November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1962).

RULE 6-10.8 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The board of legal specialization and education may refer misrepresentation of a material fact concerning compliance with or exemption from continuing legal education requirements for disciplinary proceedings under chapter 3 or chapter 4 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Added July 16, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (510 So.2d 585). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120).

6-11. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

RULE 6-11.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as a "Board Certified in Workers' Compensation Law." The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice workers' compensation law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the

character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in workers' compensation law.

Added June 18, 1987, effective July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amendment approved by the Board of Governors on August 22, 2003; amended October 21, 2011 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-11.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Workers' Compensation law. "Workers' compensation law" is the practice of law involving the analysis and litigation of problems or controversies arising out of the Florida Workers' Compensation Law.

(b) Trial. "Trial" is the prosecution or defense of a client's claim for any substantive benefit, including entitlement to an attorney's fee. Pretrial, settlement, lump sum, attorney's fee hearings on the sole issue of the quantum fees, and motion hearings (including motions to be relieved of costs) are not considered trials. Substantial participation in a rule nisi petition and hearing for the enforcement of a workers' compensation order is a trial under this subdivision. Cases involving a merits hearing with a subsequent attorney's fee hearing on the question of entitlement to an attorney's fee on the same merit issues count as only 1 trial. Hearings or trials outside the jurisdiction of the Florida Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims and appeals of these matters (including, but not limited to, federal workers' compensation matters, Federal Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act matters, and other circuit court actions) cannot be used to meet the trial or protracted litigation standard.

(c) Protracted Litigation. "Protracted litigation" is litigation that involves unusual or complicated legal issues and extensive discovery but does not result in submission of the ultimate issue to the trier of fact or substantial presentation in the appeal of workers' compensation cases.

(d) Substantial Equivalent. “Substantial equivalent” is preparation and publication of legal articles, the presentation of lectures and seminars, and the trial and submission to the trier of fact of any workers’ compensation issues before any judge other than a Judge of Compensation Claims (JCC). In addition, the applicant can substitute 3 workers’ compensation mediations to count as 1 trial if the applicant acted as mediator, but the applicant can only substitute 3 of this type of substantial equivalent (e.g., 9 mediations acting as mediator to equal 3 trials). The workers’ compensation certification committee has sole discretion, which will be applied uniformly to all applicants, to determine what qualifies as a substantial equivalent, but substantial equivalents may not substitute for more than 5 of the required trials of workers’ compensation cases.

Added June 18, 1987, effective July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended by Board of Governors August 22, 2003; amended October 21, 2011 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020.

RULE 6-11.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in workers’ compensation law sufficient to demonstrate special competence as a workers’ compensation lawyer within the 3 years immediately preceding application. Substantial involvement includes investigation, evaluation, pleadings, discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence and argument, and trial of workers’ compensation cases. Substantial involvement also includes active participation in the appeal of workers’ compensation cases.

(1) *Minimum Period of Practice.* The applicant must have at least 5 years of the actual practice of law of which at least 30 percent has been spent in active participation in workers’ compensation law. At least 3 years of this practice must be immediately preceding application or the applicant may have served

as a judge of compensation claims adjudicating workers' compensation matters during those 3 years.

(2) *Minimum Number of Cases.* The applicant must have been responsible for all or a majority of the presentation of evidence and representation of the client in 25 contested workers' compensation cases involving substantial legal or factual issues. As partial satisfaction of the substantial involvement requirement, the workers' compensation certification committee may substitute substantial equivalents including appeals or cases involving protracted litigation. Successful completion of a trial advocacy seminar approved by the committee that includes active participation by the applicant in simulated courtroom proceedings may substitute as 1 contested workers' compensation case. The applicant may have only 10 total substantial equivalent substitutions, only 5 of which may be appeals and only 5 of which may be protracted litigation.

Service as a judges of compensation claims adjudicating workers' compensation matters substitutes for 2 of the 3 years' substantial involvement.

(b) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers to complete peer review forms. At least 1 of the 5 must be a judge of compensation claims before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate in the trial of a workers' compensation case in the 2 years immediately preceding the application.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete 45 hours of continuing legal education in workers' compensation law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(d) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination applied uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, and experience in workers' compensation law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added June 18, 1987, effective July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992,

effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 28-29, 1994, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended Jan. 26, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended October 21, 2011 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020.

RULE 6-11.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must meet the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the practice of law, of which 30 percent has been spent in active participation in workers' compensation law throughout the period since the last date of certification under the minimum standards for initial certification.

(b) Trial Requirement. The applicant must have completed 15 contested workers' compensation trials since the filing of the last application for certification or recertification. All cases must have involved substantial legal or factual issues. The workers' compensation certification committee may substitute 5 substantially equivalent cases, and 8 cases involving appeals or protracted litigation of contested workers' compensation cases involving substantial legal or factual issues as trials for the trial requirement for good cause shown. An attorney fee hearing on the sole issue of the quantum fees is not considered a trial. A case involving a merits hearing with a later attorney's fee hearing on the question of entitlement to an attorney's fee on the same merit issues counts as only 1 case.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers to complete peer review forms.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 75 hours of approved continuing legal education in workers' compensation law since the filing of the last application for certification.

(e) Waiver. On special application, for good cause shown, the workers' compensation certification committee may waive compliance with the 15 contested workers' compensation cases requirement for an applicant who has been continuously certified as a workers' compensation lawyer for a period of 14 years or more.

(f) Judges of Compensation Claims. The applicant is deemed to have met the requirements for recertification if the applicant applies for recertification while serving as a judge of compensation claims.

Added June 18, 1987, effective July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 deleting former rule 6-11.4 Judges of Compensation Claims and renumbering 6-11.5 Recertification to 6-11.4.

RULE 6-11.5 VACANT

Added June 18, 1987 effective, July 1, 1987 (508 So.2d 1236). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (543 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended July 28-29, 1994, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended Jan. 26, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended May 21-22, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended _____, _____, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Amendments approved by the Board of Governors on August 22, 2003; amended October 21, 2011 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar amended and effective December 4, 2020 deleting former rule 6-11.4 Judges of Compensation Claims and renumbering 6-11.5 Recertification to 6-11.4.

6-12. BASIC SKILLS COURSE REQUIREMENT RULE

RULE 6-12.1 BASIC SKILLS COURSE REQUIREMENT

(a) Preamble. It is of primary importance to the public and to the members of The Florida Bar that lawyers begin their legal careers with a thorough and practical understanding of the law. To accomplish that objective, each Florida Bar member must comply with the basic skills course requirement through the completion of continuing legal education courses developed and presented by The

Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. The board of legal specialization and education is responsible for oversight of Florida Bar member compliance with this subchapter.

(b) Applicability. Every member admitted to The Florida Bar after October 1, 1988 must comply with the basic skills course requirement.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1258); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

RULE 6-12.2 ADMINISTRATION

(a) Responsibility. The Young Lawyers Division plans the content and presents basic skills courses. The Young Lawyers Division establishes minimum quality standards for the Practicing with Professionalism course, which must include instruction on discipline, ethics, professionalism, and responsibility to the public. The board of legal specialization and education oversees member compliance with the basic skills course requirement and adopts necessary implementation policies subject to approval by the board of governors.

(b) Delegation of Authority. The board of legal specialization and education may delegate to Florida Bar staff any responsibility in this subchapter, except denying a waiver or exemption from the basic skills course requirement.

(c) Extensions. The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion, for the basic skills course requirements on the executive director of board of governors' request for good cause shown, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) national or regional emergency;
- (2) flood, fire, hurricane, extreme weather, or explosion;

- (3) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine;
- (4) war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts;
- (5) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or political unrest; or
- (6) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation, mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

(d) Maintenance of Records. The Florida Bar will maintain a record of each Florida Bar member's compliance with the basic skills course requirement.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1258); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

RULE 6-12.3 REQUIREMENT

(a) Course Components. Compliance with the basic skills course requirement includes:

- (1) completion of a Practicing with Professionalism course sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division, which must include the curriculum of the 2-credit hour Florida Legal Professionalism course required by rule 6-10.3(b); and
- (2) completion of 21 credit hours of Young Lawyers Division-sponsored substantive, basic-level continuing legal education courses sponsored by the YLD.

(b) Time for Completion. The basic skills course requirement must be completed as follows:

- (1) The Practicing with Professionalism course must be completed no sooner than 12 months before or no later than 12 months after Florida Bar admission; and

(2) The 21-credit hours of substantive, basic-level continuing legal education courses must be completed during the member's initial 3-year continuing legal education requirement reporting cycle assigned on Florida Bar admission.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); Feb. 15, 1990 (556 So.2d 1119); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); May 12, 2005, effective May 12, 2005 (SC04-914); February 4, 2010, effective March 6, 2010 (SC09-1427). Amended June 11, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (SC14-2088); amended February 29, 2024, effective January 8, 2024 (SC23-1412).

RULE 6-12.4 DEFERMENT AND EXEMPTION

(a) Deferment of Practicing with Professionalism Requirement.

(1) *Deferment Eligibility.* A Florida Bar member is eligible to defer completion of the Practicing with Professionalism course if:

- (A) the member is on active military duty;
- (B) compliance would create an undue hardship;
- (C) the member is a nonresident member who does not deliver legal services or advice on matters or issues governed by Florida law; or
- (D) the member elects inactive membership status in The Florida Bar.

(2) *Deferment Expiration.* A deferment of the Practicing with Professionalism course as provided under this rule expires when the Florida Bar member is no longer eligible for deferment. On expiration, a Florida Bar member must:

- (A) promptly notify The Florida Bar in writing of the date deferment expired; and
- (B) attend the Practicing with Professionalism course within 12 months of deferment expiration.

(b) Deferment of Substantive Basic Skills Course Requirement.

(1) *Deferment Eligibility.* A Florida Bar member is eligible to defer completion of the substantive basic skills course requirement if:

- (A) the member is on active military duty;
- (B) compliance would create an undue hardship;
- (C) the member is a nonresident member who does not deliver legal services or advice on matters or issues governed by Florida law;
- (D) the member is a full-time governmental employee; or
- (E) the member elects inactive membership status in The Florida Bar.

(2) *Deferment Expiration.* An undue hardship deferment for the basic skills course requirement remains in effect for no more than 1 reporting cycle. A deferment of the substantive basic skills course requirement for all other reasons expires when the member is no longer eligible for deferment. On expiration, a Florida Bar member must:

- (A) promptly notify The Florida Bar in writing of the date deferment expired; and
- (B) complete 21 credit hours of substantive, basic-level continuing legal education courses sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division within 24 months of deferment expiration.

(c) Exemption.

(1) *Governmental Practice.* The bar will grant an exemption from the 21 credit hours of substantive, basic-level continuing legal education courses sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division required by rule 6-12.3(a)(2) if the member has been continuously engaged in the practice of law for a Florida or

federal governmental entity as a full-time governmental employee for a period of at least 6 years.

(2) *Foreign Practice.* The bar will grant an exemption from the 21 credit hours of substantive, basic-level continuing legal education courses sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division required by rule 6-12.3(a)(2) if a member has been continuously engaged in the practice of law (non-governmental) in a foreign jurisdiction for a period of 5 years, can demonstrate completion of 30 hours of approved continuing legal education within the immediate 3-year period, and can attest that the continuing legal education completed has reasonably prepared the member for the anticipated type of practice in Florida.

Added effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); Amended May 12, 2005, Florida Supreme Court opinion (SC04-914) - effective May 12, 2005; February 4, 2010, effective March 6, 2010 (SC09-1427) ; amended February 2, 2023, effective April 3, 2023 (SC22-1291); amended February 29, 2024, effective January 8, 2024 (SC23-1412).

RULE 6-12.5 NONCOMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS

(a) Notice of Noncompliance. If a Florida Bar member fails to comply with this rule, the member is deemed delinquent as provided elsewhere in the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. The Florida Bar must promptly send a notice of noncompliance to the noncompliant member.

(b) Appeal to the Board of Governors. A delinquent member may appeal the delinquency determination to the board of governors under rules and procedures the board of governors prescribes.

(c) Appeal to the Supreme Court of Florida. A delinquent member may appeal the board of governors' determination to the Supreme Court of Florida under rules and regulations the court prescribes.

(d) Exhaustion of Remedies. A delinquent member must exhaust each of the remedies provided under these rules in the order enumerated before proceeding to the next remedy.

(e) Tolling Time. An appeal tolls the determination of noncompliance and resulting delinquency until all appeals have been completed or the time for appeal has expired.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252). Renumbered and amended Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1258). Renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

HISTORICAL NOTES Former Rule 6-12.4, relating to extension and compliance, was deleted Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998, and former Rules 6-12.5, 6-12.6, 6-12.7, and 6-12.8 were renumbered as Rules 6-12.4, 6-12.5, 6-12.6, and 6-12.7, respectively.

RULE 6-12.6 REINSTATEMENT

Any member delinquent in completion of the basic skills course requirement may be reinstated by the executive director or board of governors on the delinquent member showing compliance with the basic skills course requirement and payment of a uniform reinstatement fee set by the board of governors.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252). Renumbered and amended Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1258). Renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

RULE 6-12.7 CONFIDENTIALITY

The files and records maintained regarding appeals and hearings conducted under this rule are confidential until the time for the appeals process has ended. If a member is deemed delinquent under this rule, that fact is public information.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252). Renumbered and amended Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1258). Renumbered and amended

effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

RULE 6-12.8 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The board of legal specialization and education may refer a Florida Bar member who makes a misrepresentation of a material fact concerning the basic skills course requirement for disciplinary investigation as provided elsewhere in these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Added April 21, 1988, effective Oct. 1, 1988 (524 So.2d 634). Amended Sept. 21, 1989, effective Oct. 1, 1989 (548 So.2d 1120); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252). Renumbered and amended Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1258). Renumbered and amended effective Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031); amended April 18, 2024, effective June 17, 2024 (SC2024-0031).

6-13. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN APPELLATE PRACTICE

RULE 6-13.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Appellate Practice.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who engage in appellate practice and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in appellate practice.

Adopted July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032). Amended April 9, 1999; August 17, 2007, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-13.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Appellate Practice. “Appellate practice” is recognizing and preserving error committed by lower tribunals; arguing the presence or absence of error to state or federal appellate courts

through brief writing, writ, motion practice, and oral argument; and evaluating and providing consultation on potential appellate issues or remedies in connection with proceedings in the lower tribunal before the initiation of the appellate process.

(b) Appellate Action. “Appellate action” is an action filed in a state court, a federal district court, a United States court of appeals, or the Supreme Court of the United States seeking review of a lower tribunal decision.

(1) *Timing of Appellate Actions.* An appellate actions in which the applicant filed a principal brief, response, or petition as defined in this rule within the time frame for the current filing period will be counted as an appellate actions regardless of whether the action is settled, dismissed, or proceeds to decision on the merits.

(2) *Supreme Court Briefs.* A brief on the merits following an acceptance of jurisdiction in the United States Supreme Court may be considered as a separate appellate action.

(3) *Consolidated Proceedings.* Appellate proceedings with different case numbers that are consolidated by the court are not considered separate appellate actions for any purposes for which they have been consolidated.

(4) *Cross-Appeals.* An appeal and cross-appeal will count as 2 appellate actions for good cause shown if the committee determines that the applicant had sole or primary responsibility for the filing of 2 separate principal briefs.

(c) Appellate Practice Certification Committee. The appellate practice certification committee may include 1 member presently serving as an appellate court judge from a Florida district court of appeal, the Supreme Court of Florida, a United States court of appeals, or the Supreme Court of the United States. Certification in appellate practice is preferred, but is not a requirement. Appointment otherwise is consistent with the rule for certification committees elsewhere in this chapter.

(d) Primary Responsibility. “Primary responsibility” is having the most substantial and direct participation of all the lawyers contributing to writing and filing a brief, petition, or response. Only 1 lawyer may claim primary responsibility for that task. The applicant must specifically identify any other lawyer who provided substantial assistance with the task and demonstrate that the applicant’s level of participation was primary to the satisfaction of the appellate practice certification committee if primary responsibility is used to meet the requirement. Credit for a brief, petition, or response that does not designate the applicant as an author may be considered if accompanied by a certification from at least 1 of the designated authors that the applicant had the most substantial and direct participation in the brief’s preparation.

(e) Principal Briefs in Appeals. A “principal brief in appeals” is the primary brief on the merits and excludes reply briefs (including reply briefs that also serve as answer briefs on cross-appeal), jurisdictional briefs, supplemental briefs, and amicus briefs. The appellate practice certification committee may treat a reply brief (including a reply brief that also serves as an answer brief on cross-appeal), jurisdictional brief, supplemental brief, or amicus brief as a principal brief for the purpose of these rules, for good cause shown if the brief is substantial and reflects a level of effort and preparation comparable to that required to produce a principal brief. The committee may treat a combined answer brief and initial brief on cross-appeal as separate principal briefs for good cause shown if the brief reflects a level of effort and preparation comparable to that required to produce separate principal briefs.

(f) Petitions or Responses in Extraordinary Writ Cases. “Petitions or responses in extraordinary writ cases” is a petition or response to a petition that seeks a writ from an appellate court to challenge a ruling or the jurisdiction of a lower tribunal or administrative agency. The term includes a petition or response to a petition for a writ of certiorari filed in the Supreme Court of the United States. The term does not include any other petition or response to a petition that merely requests discretionary appellate review, including a notice to invoke the discretionary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida, or for permission to appeal to a

United States Court of Appeals an order of a district court under, for example, 28 U.S.C. §1292(b) or Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(f).

Adopted July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032). Amended April 9, 1999; August 17, 2007; May 31, 2013; January 29, 2016; January 20, 2017 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 13, 2024 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-13.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law for at least 5 years. At least 30 percent of the applicant's practice must have been spent in substantial and direct involvement in appellate practice to demonstrate special competence as an appellate lawyer during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. The appellate practice certification committee will substitute up to 2 of the 3-year substantial involvement requirement for individuals who have served as appellate judges or as a clerk, career attorney, or staff attorney in an appellate court. Substantial involvement during the year immediately preceding the application will not be waived or substituted.

(b) Appellate Actions. The applicant must have had sole or primary responsibility in at least 25 appellate actions for the filing of principal briefs in appeals or the filing of petitions or responses in extraordinary writ cases during the 5-year period immediately preceding application. A former judge may substitute a published appellate opinion with attributed authorship to that judge for any or all of the 25 appellate actions to meet this requirement.

(c) Oral Arguments. The applicant must have presented at least 5 oral arguments to an appellate court during the 5-year period immediately preceding application. The oral arguments to an appellate court need not have been presented in the same cases listed on the application as appellate actions.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 45 credit hours of approved continuing legal education for appellate practice

certification during the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of an application. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the appellate practice certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(e) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 4 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. These lawyers must be involved in appellate practice and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on appellate matters within the last 2 years to complete peer review forms.

(f) Examination. Every applicant must pass an examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency and experience in appellate practice – including the recognition, preservation, and presentation of trial error, and knowledge and application of the rules of appellate procedure applicable to state and federal appellate practice in Florida – to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and public.

Adopted July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032). Amended Nov. 21, 1997; April 9, 1999; August 17, 2007; May 31, 2013; January 29, 2016 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-13.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding application.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the

practice of law, of which at least 30 percent must have been spent in actual participation in appellate practice.

(b) Appellate Actions. The applicant must have had sole or primary responsibility in at least 15 appellate actions for the filing of principal briefs in appeals, petitions, or responses to filed petitions in extraordinary writ cases. For good cause, the appellate practice certification committee may waive this requirement for applicants who have been continuously certified for 14 or more years.

(c) Oral Arguments. The applicant must have presented at least 3 oral arguments to an appellate court in the first recertification cycle, and 2 appellate arguments for subsequent recertification cycles, unless otherwise stated in this chapter. Cases where the applicant did not have sole or primary responsibility as described above can still be listed on the application to meet the oral argument requirement.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education for appellate practice certification. This requirement may be satisfied by the applicant's completion of at least 30 hours of continuing judicial education approved by the Supreme Court of Florida.

(e) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 4 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. These lawyers must be involved in appellate practice and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on appellate matters within the last 2 years to complete peer review forms.

(f) Judges.

Full time service performing judicial functions during at least 2 of the 5 years since the last date of certification by an applicant subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct including, but not limited to, an appellate court judge on a Florida district court of appeals or the United States Supreme Court satisfies the substantial involvement, minimum number of appellate actions, minimum number of oral arguments, and peer review requirements if the applicant has complied with all other requirements for recertification.

Adopted July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032). Amended Nov. 21, 1997; April 9, 1999; August 17, 2007; February 1, 2008; May 31, 2013; January 29, 2016, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective July 23, 2021 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 13, 2024 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-14. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN HEALTH LAW

RULE 6-14.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Health Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of health law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in health law.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327). Amended Oct. 22, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-14.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Health Law. “Health law” is the practice of law involving federal, state, or local law, rules, or regulations and health care provider issues, regulation of providers, legal issues regarding relationships between and among providers, legal issues regarding

relationships between providers and payors, and legal issues regarding the delivery of health care services.

(b) Practice of Law. Notwithstanding anything in the definition to the contrary, legal work done primarily for a purpose other than legal advice or representation (including, but not limited to, work related to the sale of insurance or retirement plans or work in connection with the practice of a profession other than the law) shall not be treated as the practice of law.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327). Amended Oct. 22, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-14.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the application date. The years of practice of law need not be consecutive.

Receipt of an LL.M. degree in health law or other related fields approved by the board of legal specialization and education and the health law certification committee from an approved law school may substitute for 1 year of the practice of law for purposes of the 5-year practice requirement (but not the 5-year bar membership requirement) under this subdivision. The applicant may not receive credit for more than 1 year of practice for any 12-month period under this subdivision; for example, an applicant who receives credit for being engaged in the practice of law will not receive additional credit for an LL.M. degree earned in that same time period by attending night classes.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of health law during the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. The board of legal specialization and education may waive the

requirement that the 3 years be immediately preceding the application date for good cause shown at the applicant's request and if recommended by the health law certification committee. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of health law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those health law issues. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on health law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the health law certification committee but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including attorneys who currently practice in the applicant's law firm to complete peer review forms. The board of legal specialization and education or the health law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 60 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of health law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(e) Examination. Every applicant must pass a written examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, and proficiency in the field of health law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327). Amended March 14-16, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Oct. 22, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar, amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-14.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate a satisfactory showing of continuous and substantial involvement in the field of health law throughout the period since the last date of certification as determined by the board of legal specialization and education and the health law certification committee. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted at least 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of health law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those health law issues. An applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. The board of legal specialization and education and the health law certification committee may accept an affidavit from the applicant attesting to the applicant's compliance with the substantial involvement requirement.

(b) Continuing Legal Education Requirement. The applicant must complete 100 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of health law since the last application for certification or recertification. If the applicant has not attained 100 hours of continuing legal education but has attained more than 60 hours during such period, successful passage of the written examination given by the board of legal specialization and education to new applicants satisfies the continuing legal education requirements.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges to complete peer review forms.

(d) Examination Requirement. If, after reviewing the material submitted by an applicant for recertification, the board of legal specialization and education and the health law certification committee determine that the applicant may not meet the standards in health law established under this chapter, the board of legal specialization and education and the health law certification committee may require, as a condition of recertification, that the applicant pass the written examination given by the board of legal specialization and education to new applicants.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327). Amended Oct. 22, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**6-15. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN
IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW
RULE 6-15.1 GENERALLY**

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice immigration and nationality law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism to be properly identified to the public as board certified in immigration and nationality law.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327); amendment approved by Board of Governors on consent agenda October 3, 2008, effective October 3, 2008. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-15.2 DEFINITIONS

“Immigration and nationality law” is the law dealing with all aspects of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-15.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law for at least 5 years preceding the date of application.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of immigration and nationality law during the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. Substantial involvement means that the applicant

has devoted 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of immigration and nationality law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those issues. Matters in which issues of immigration and nationality law are significant factors include, but are not limited to, the representation of clients before:

(1) the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Customs and Border Patrol, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement through either the preparation of petitions and applications for immigration benefits and discretionary relief or the appearance as counsel at deferred inspections, adjustment of status, and other interviews;

(2) the Executive Office for Immigration Review during exclusion, deportation, removal, asylum only, bond proceedings, and appeals;

(3) the Department of Labor through the preparation of Labor Certification Applications, Labor Condition Applications, and other Department of Labor applications, petitions, and processes required in the Immigration and Nationality Act as a prerequisite for immigration benefits;

(4) the Department of State in matters pertaining to the consular processing of visa applications; and

(5) United States district courts and United States courts of appeals in matters of original and appellate jurisdiction concerning immigration and nationality matters.

The immigration and nationality certification committee may waive the 3 years immediately preceding the application date requirement for good cause shown.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers to complete peer review forms who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners, as references to attest to the applicant's reputation for substantial involvement and competence in the field of immigration and nationality law, as well as the applicant's character, ethics, and reputation for

professionalism. At least 1 reference must be board certified in immigration and nationality law. The immigration and nationality law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in immigration and nationality law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the immigration and nationality law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass a written examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, and professionalism in the field of immigration and nationality law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (641 So.2d 1327); amended by Board of Governors on October 3, 2008, effective October 3, 2008; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-15.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding application.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the field of immigration and nationality law during the period since the last date of certification. On good cause shown, the immigration and nationality law certification committee may waive all or any portion of the substantial involvement requirement if an applicant was or is currently a judge presiding over matters of immigration and nationality law. Substantial involvement means that the applicant has devoted 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of immigration and nationality law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and

direct participation in those issues. Matters in which issues of immigration and nationality law are significant factors include, but are not limited to, those listed in the minimum standards for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicants must complete 100 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in immigration and nationality law. At least 40 of these hours must be during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the immigration and nationality law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(c) Peer Review. Peer review is conducted under the minimum standards for initial certification. **The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers to complete peer review forms who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners, as references to attest to the applicant's reputation for substantial involvement and competence in the field of immigration and nationality law, as well as the applicant's character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism. At least 1 reference must be board certified in immigration and nationality law. The immigration and nationality law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.**

(d) Examination Requirement. If the immigration and nationality law certification committee determines that the applicant does not meet the standards set forth in subdivision (b) of this rule, the immigration and nationality law certification committee may, for good cause shown, require that the applicant pass the examination in lieu thereof.

Added Sept. 1, 1994 (631 So.2d 1327). Amended Jan. 26, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; Amended October 3, 2008 by Board of Governors of The Florida Bar, effective October 3, 2008; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 15, 2024 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**6-16. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN BUSINESS
LITIGATION
RULE 6-16.1 GENERALLY**

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meets the standards prescribed below may be issued a certificate, identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Business Litigation.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of business litigation and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified business litigation lawyers.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended July 17-18, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; September 18-20, 1997, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amendment approved by Board of Governors on August 22, 2003; amendments approved by Board of Governors on January 31, 2014.

RULE 6-16.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Business Litigation. “Business litigation” is dealing with the legal problems from commercial and business relationships including litigation of controversies and evaluating, handling, and resolving these controversies before state courts, federal courts, administrative agencies, mediators, and arbitrators. Matters not qualifying for business litigation include areas of practice dealing with personal injury, routine collection matters, marital and family law, or workers’ compensation. Courts of “general jurisdiction” include state circuit courts, federal district courts, and courts of similar jurisdiction in other states, but not county courts.

(b) Practice of Law. The practice of law which otherwise satisfies these requirements but which is on a part-time basis will satisfy this requirement.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended July 17-18, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; September 18-20, 1997, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; approved by the Board of Governors on August 22, 2003; amendments approved by Board of Governors on

January 31, 2014; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-16.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have at least 5 years of the practice of law immediately preceding application, of which at least 30 percent has been spent in active participation in business litigation. The practice of law which otherwise satisfies these standards, but which is on a part-time basis, will satisfy this requirement.

(b) Minimum Number of Matters. The applicant must have had substantial involvement in 25 contested business litigation matters during the 5-year period immediately preceding application. These matters must have proceeded at least to the filing of a complaint or similar pleading and involve substantial legal or factual issues. At least 8 of the 25 matters must have been submitted to the trier of fact for resolution of 1 or more contested factual issues through the presentation of live testimony or other evidence at a hearing. The trier of fact includes any judge or jury of a court of general jurisdiction, an arbitration panel, administrative agency, bankruptcy court, or other similar body. At least 1 of the 8 matters must have been tried before a jury during the 10-year period immediately preceding application. The business litigation certification committee may consider any civil dispute tried before a jury within the allowable time period to satisfy the jury trial requirement if the applicant has not tried a business litigation matter before a jury. “Submission to the trier of fact” and “trial before a jury” requires completion of the client’s case. The applicant may substitute completion of an advanced trial advocacy seminar either by teaching, attendance, or combination for 1 of the 8 matters if the applicant has not participated in 8 matters submitted to the trier of fact for resolution. An advanced trial seminar submitted for the jury trial requirement must contain a jury trial component including voir dire, opening statements, and a closing argument. This seminar must be 3 full days, approved by the business litigation certification committee, and include as part of its curriculum active participation by the applicant in simulated

courtroom proceedings. All course materials for the seminar must be submitted to the business litigation certification committee to be considered for substitute credit. The business litigation certification committee may consider involvement in protracted adversary proceedings to satisfy any of these requirements for good cause shown. A “protracted adversary proceeding” is a business litigation matter which, by its very nature, is so time consuming as to preclude the applicant from meeting the requirements of this subdivision. In order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this section, the following criteria will be applicable.

(1) Summary judgments do not count as matters submitted to the trier of fact.

(2) A preliminary injunction or other evidentiary hearing will count as 1 matter submitted to the trier of fact.

(3) A matter in which the applicant supervises an associate qualifies as 1 of the 25 contested litigation matters but not as 1 of the 8 matters submitted to the trier of fact.

(c) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have substantial involvement in contested business litigation cases sufficient to demonstrate special competence as a business litigation lawyer. Substantial involvement includes active participation in client interviewing, counseling, investigating, preparation of pleadings, participation in discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, negotiation of settlement, drafting and preparation of business litigation settlement agreements, and argument and trial of business law cases.

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit names and addresses of 5 lawyers who are not the applicant’s associates or partners to complete peer review forms. The lawyers themselves must be substantially involved in business litigation and familiar with the applicant’s practice. At least 1 of the references must be a judge or presiding officer of a court or other tribunal before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate in a business litigation matter in the 2-year period immediately preceding the application.

(e) Education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of approved continuing legal education in business litigation within the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the business litigation certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(f) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination applied uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, experience, proficiency, and professionalism in business litigation to justify representation of special competence to the legal profession and to the public.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended July 17-18, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; September 18-20, 1997, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended effective June 29, 2000, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amendment approved by Board of Governors on August 22, 2003; amendment approved by BoG on 6/2/06 and effective on 6/5/06; amendments approved by Board of Governors on January 31, 2014; amendments approved by the Board of Governors on October 12, 2018; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-16.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have substantial involvement in contested business litigation cases sufficient to demonstrate special competence as a business litigation lawyer. Substantial involvement includes active participation in client interviewing, counseling, investigating, preparation of pleadings, participation in discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, negotiation of settlement, drafting and preparation of business litigation settlement agreements, and argument and trial of business law cases.

(b) Minimum Number of Matters. The applicant must have had substantial involvement in 25 contested business litigation

matters. These matters must have proceeded at least to the filing of a complaint or similar pleading and involve substantial legal or factual issues. At least 5 of the 25 matters must have been submitted to the trier of fact for resolution of 1 or more contested factual issues through the presentation of live testimony or other evidence at a hearing. “Submission to the trier of fact” and “trial before a jury” requires completion of the client’s case. The applicant may complete an advanced trial advocacy seminar either by teaching, attendance, or a combination and substitute completion for 1 of the 5 required matters if the applicant has not participated in 5 matters submitted to the trier of fact for resolution. The seminar must be 3 full days, approved by the business litigation certification committee, and include as part of its curriculum active participation by the applicant in simulated courtroom proceedings. All course materials for the seminar must be submitted to the business litigation certification committee to be considered for substitution. The business litigation certification committee may consider involvement in protracted adversary proceedings to satisfy any of these requirements on good cause shown. A “protracted adversary proceeding” is a business litigation matter which is so time consuming as to preclude the applicant from meeting the requirements of this subdivision. In order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this section, the following criteria are applicable.

- (1) Summary judgments do not count as 1 of the 5 matters submitted to the trier of fact.
- (2) A preliminary injunction or other evidentiary hearing counts as 1 of the 5 matters submitted to the trier of fact.
- (3) A matter in which the applicant supervises an associate qualifies as 1 of the 25 contested litigation matters, but not as 1 of the 5 matters submitted to the trier of fact.

The business litigation certification committee may waive compliance with the evidentiary hearing criteria for an applicant who has been continuously board certified as a business litigation lawyer for a period of 14 years or more on special application for good cause shown.

(c) Education. **The applicant must complete 50 hours of approved continuing legal education since the date of the last application for certification. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the business litigation certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.**

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit names and addresses of 5 lawyers who are not the applicant's associates or partners to complete peer review forms. The lawyers themselves must be substantially involved in business litigation and familiar with the applicant's practice. At least 1 of the references must be a judge or presiding officer of a court or other tribunal before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate in a business litigation matter in the 2-year period immediately preceding the application.

(e) Judges. Service as an officer of any judicial system as defined in the Code of Judicial Conduct performing judicial functions on a full-time basis during a substantial portion of the period since the last date of certification substitutes for substantial involvement, minimum number of matters, and education under this rule for an applicant who is otherwise qualified for recertification.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended July 17-18, 1996, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; September 18-20, 1997, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amendment approved by Board of Governors on August 22, 2003; amendment approved by BoG on 6/2/06 and effective 6/5/06; amendment approved by Board of Governors on March 28, 2008, effective March 28, 2008; amendments approved by Board of Governors on January 31, 2014; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by the Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-17. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW RULE 6-17.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Admiralty and Maritime Law.” The purpose of the standards is to

identify those lawyers who practice admiralty and maritime law and who have demonstrated special knowledge, skills and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in admiralty and maritime law.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-17.2 DEFINITIONS

“Admiralty and Maritime Law” is the corpus of rules, concepts, and legal practices governing vessels, the shipping industry, the carrying of goods and passengers by water, and related maritime concepts. Admiralty and maritime law includes the substantive law and procedural rules associated with the general maritime law of the United States, admiralty jurisdiction and procedure, personal injury and wrongful death of seamen and passengers aboard vessels, compensation for injury and wrongful death of longshoremen and harbor workers, government regulation of marine safety and the maritime industry, carriage of goods, charter parties, salvage, general average, collision, marine insurance, maritime liens, limitation of liability, marine pollution and environmental law, maritime arbitration, recreational vessels, vessel finance and documentation, international aspects of maritime practice as well as other maritime topics which because of their special history, as well as for historical and practical reasons, have been recognized as distinctly different from our modern system of common law and have been traditionally grouped and practiced as “admiralty and maritime law.”

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930); amended and effective Dec. 11, 1998 by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-17.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the

United States or the District of Columbia for period of 5 years as of the application date.

Receipt of an LL.M degree in admiralty law, ocean law, maritime law or other related fields approved by the board of legal specialization and education and admiralty law certification committee from an approved law school may substitute for 1 year of the practice of law for purposes of the 5-year practice requirement but not the 5-year bar membership requirement.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of admiralty and maritime law during the 5 years immediately preceding the application date, including devoting not less than 35 percent to admiralty and maritime law during each of the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. The admiralty and maritime law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that the 3 years be “immediately preceding” the application date for good cause shown at the applicant’s request. Receipt of an LL.M degree in admiralty law, ocean law, maritime law, or other degree containing substantial admiralty and maritime law content as approved by the board of legal specialization and education from an approved law school may substitute for 1 year of substantial involvement, except for the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of work and the nature of issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on admiralty and maritime law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period. The practice of law which otherwise satisfies these requirements but which is on a part-time basis satisfies the substantial involvement requirement. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the admiralty law certification committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers who are familiar with the applicant’s practice, not including attorneys who currently practice in the applicant’s law firm, to complete peer review forms. At least 2

references must be board certified in admiralty and maritime law or have an established and recognized admiralty and maritime law practice. The board of legal specialization and education and admiralty law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must demonstrate completion of 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in admiralty and maritime law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination, applied uniformly to all applicants, that will be practical and comprehensive and designed to demonstrate special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in admiralty and maritime law topics including jurisdiction, procedure, personal injury and wrongful death, marine insurance, and other topics as selected by the admiralty certification committee.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended Dec. 11, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 3, 2021 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-17.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date for recertification.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement of at least 35 percent in admiralty and maritime law during each year of certification or prior recertification under the minimum standards for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 55 hours of approved continuing legal education since the filing of the last application for certification in admiralty and maritime law.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 individuals who are active in admiralty and maritime

law, including, but not limited to, lawyers and judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, excluding persons who are currently employed in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms.

(d) Examination. The applicant may be required to pass the admiralty and maritime examination given to new applicants as a condition of recertification if the admiralty law certification committee determines the applicant may not meet the standards for admiralty law certification established under this chapter after reviewing the applicant's recertification submission.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended Dec. 11, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 3, 2021 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-18. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN CITY, COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW RULE 6-18.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as "Board Certified in City, County and Local Government Lawyer." The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice city, county and local government law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in city, county and local government law.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended Dec. 11, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-18.2 DEFINITIONS

"City, County and Local Government Law" is the practice of law dealing with legal issues of county, municipal, or other local governments including, but not limited to, special districts, agencies, and authorities, including litigation in federal and state

courts and before administrative agencies; the preparation of laws, ordinances, and regulations; and the preparation of legal instruments on behalf of city, county, or local governments. Legal work done primarily for a purpose other than providing legal counsel or representation (including, but not limited to, work related to the administration of government or representing government as an elected official or as a state legislative lobbyist) is not treated as the practice of law for certification or recertification purposes.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended Dec. 11, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors. Amended and effective December 2, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-18.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the date of filing an application. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

Receipt of an LL.M. degree in urban affairs or other related fields approved by the board of legal specialization and education and the city, county and local government certification committee from an approved law school may substitute for 1 year of the practice of law for purpose of the 5-year practice requirement, but not the 5-year bar membership requirement under this subdivision. However, the applicant may not receive credit for more than 1 year of practice for any 12-month period under this subsection; for example, an applicant who receives credit for being engaged in the practice of law will not receive additional credit for an LL.M. degree earned in the same time period by attending night classes.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of Florida city, county, and local government law during each of the 3 years

immediately preceding the application date. The board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that each of the 3 years immediately precede the application for good cause shown on an applicant's request and the recommendation of the city, county, and local government certification committee. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of Florida city, county and local government law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those issues. An applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on city, county, and local government law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was otherwise engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the city, county and local government certification committee but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers who are familiar with the applicant's practice to complete peer review forms. These lawyers themselves must be substantially involved in Florida city, county, and local government law. These lawyers may not be the applicant's relatives, currently employed by the same governmental entity or educational institution as the applicant, or currently practice in the applicant's law firm. The board of legal specialization and education and the city, county, and local government certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 60 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in city, county, and local government law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass a written examination, applied uniformly to all applicants, designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, and proficiency in the field of Florida city, county, and local government law to justify the

representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended Dec. 11, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors. Amended and effective December 2, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-18.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the field of Florida city, county and local government law throughout the period since the last date of certification. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of Florida city, county and local government law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those issues. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authorizing books or articles on city, county, or local government law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was otherwise engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Additionally, the board of legal specialization and education and the city, county, and local government certification committee may accept an affidavit from the applicant attesting to the applicant's compliance with the substantial involvement requirement. The board of legal specialization and education may waive the substantial involvement requirement for good cause shown on an applicant's request and at the recommendation of the city, county, and local government certification committee.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 60 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in city, county, and local government law since the filing of the last application for certification or recertification. Passage of the written examination given to initial certification applicants satisfies the continuing legal education requirement if the applicant has completed more than 30 continuing legal education hours since the filing of the last application for certification or recertification.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 other lawyers who are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including lawyers who are relatives or currently employed by the same governmental entity or educational institution as the applicant or who currently practice in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms. These lawyers themselves must be substantially involved in Florida city, county, and local government law. The board of legal specialization and education and the city, county, and local government certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Examination. If, after reviewing the material submitted by an applicant for recertification, the board of legal specialization and education and the city, county, and local government certification committee determine that the applicant may not meet the standards in city, county, and local government law established under this chapter, the board of legal specialization and education and the city, county, and local government certification committee may require, as a condition of recertification, that the applicant pass the written examination given by the board of legal specialization and education to new applicants.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930). Amended Dec. 11, 1998, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 12, 2024 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-19. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN AVIATION LAW RULE 6-19.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as "Board Certified in Aviation Law." The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice aviation law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in aviation law.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930); Amended by Board of Governors October 3, 2008. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-19.2 DEFINITIONS

“Aviation law” is the law dealing with aeronautical and aerospace activities and the ownership, operation, maintenance, and use of aircraft, airports, and airspace. It is also licensing and aeromedical issues encompassed by the Federal Aviation Act and the associated federal aviation regulations promulgated under it, all facets of the law dealing with space travel and the use of outer space, and all facets of the law dealing with aviation and airline employment.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930); Amended and effective January 20, 2017, by Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-19.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the date of filing an application. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement sufficient to show special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in the practice of aviation law during the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. Substantial involvement is devoting at least 30 percent of one’s practice to matters in which issues of aviation law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those aviation issues. On the applicant’s request and the recommendation of the aviation law certification committee, the board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that the 3 years be “immediately preceding” the application date for good cause shown.

The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on fields of aviation law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period.

Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially in the form of a questionnaire approved by the aviation law certification committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners and who are familiar with the applicant's practice to complete peer review forms. The board of legal specialization and education and the aviation law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete at least 60 hours of continuing legal education requirements necessary for aviation law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of filing an application as established by the board of legal specialization and education.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass a written examination that is practical, objective, and designed to demonstrate special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in aviation law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930); Amended October 3, 2008 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors, effective October 3, 2008; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-19.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding application.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in aviation law throughout the period since the last date of certification under the standards for substantial involvement for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 60 hours of accredited continuing legal education in aviation law.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 lawyers or judges who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners and who are familiar with the applicant's practice to complete peer review forms.

Added July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930); Amended October 3, 2008; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-20. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN ELDER LAW

RULE 6-20.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may apply to The Florida Bar board of legal specialization and education for a certificate identifying the lawyer as "Board Certified in Elder Law." The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of elder law and who have the experience, knowledge, skills, and judgment to be properly identified to the public as board certified in elder law.

Added July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-20.2 DEFINITIONS

"Elder law" is health and personal care planning including advance directives; lifetime planning; family issues; fiduciary representation; capacity; guardianship; power of attorney; financial planning; public benefits and insurance; resident rights in long-term care facilities; housing opportunities and financing; employment and retirement matters; income, estate, and gift tax

matters; estate planning; probate; nursing home claims; age or disability discrimination; and grandparents' rights. The specialization encompasses all aspects of planning for aging, illness, and incapacity. Elder law clients are predominantly seniors and the specialization requires a practitioner to be particularly sensitive to the legal issues impacting these clients.

Added July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-20.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the date of filing an application. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in elder law with 5 years of law practice, of which at least 40 percent has been spent in active participation in elder law and at least 3 years of this practice immediately preceding application. Active participation in elder law is handling matters in which issues of elder law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those elder law issues. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on elder law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the elder law certification committee but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Practical Experience. The applicant must have provided legal services in at least 60 matters as prescribed below during the 3 years immediately preceding the application.

(1) Forty must be in categories listed in (A) through (E) below, with at least 5 matters in each category.

(2) Ten of the matters must be in categories listed in (F) through (M) below. No more than 5 in any 1 category may be credited toward the total requirement of 60 matters.

(3) The remaining 10 matters may be in any category listed in (A) through (M) below and are not subject to the limitation contained in parts (1) or (2) of this subdivision.

(4) The applicant will be considered to have provided legal services in this subdivision if the applicant provided written or oral advice supported by substantial documentation in the client's file tailored to and based on facts and circumstances specific to a particular client; drafted legal documents such as, but not limited to, wills, trusts, or health care directives, if those legal documents were tailored to and based on facts and circumstances specific to the particular client; prepared legal documents and took other steps necessary for the administration of a previously prepared legal directive such as, but not limited to, a will or trust; or provided representation to a party in contested litigation or administrative matters concerning an elder law issue.

(5) The categories are:

(A) health and personal care planning, including giving advice regarding and preparing, advance medical directives (medical powers of attorney, living wills, and health care declarations) and counseling older persons, attorneys-in-fact, and families about medical and life-sustaining choices, and related personal life choices;

(B) pre-mortem legal planning, including giving advice and preparing documents regarding wills, trusts, durable general or financial powers of attorney, real estate, gifting, and the financial and tax implications of any proposed action;

(C) fiduciary representation, including seeking the appointment of, giving advice to, representing, or serving as executor, personal representative, attorney-in-fact, trustee,

guardian, conservator, representative payee, or other formal or informal fiduciary;

(D) legal capacity counseling, including advising how capacity is determined and the level of capacity required for various legal activities, and representing those who are or may be the subject of guardianship/conservatorship proceedings or other protective arrangements;

(E) public benefits advice, including planning for and assisting in obtaining Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Supplemental Income, Veterans' benefits, and food stamps;

(F) advice on insurance matters, including analyzing and explaining the types of insurance available, such as health, life, long-term care, home care, COBRA, medigap, long-term disability, dread disease, and burial or funeral policies;

(G) resident rights advocacy, including advising patients and residents of hospitals, nursing facilities, continuing care facilities, and those cared for in their homes of their rights and appropriate remedies in matters such as admission, transfer and discharge policies, quality of care, and related issues;

(H) housing counseling, including reviewing the options available and the financing of those options such as mortgage alternatives, renovation loan programs, life care contracts, and home equity conversion.;

(I) employment and retirement advice, including pensions, retiree health benefits, unemployment benefits, and other benefits.;

(J) income, estate, and gift tax advice, including consequences of plans made and advice offered.;

(K) counseling about tort claims against nursing homes.;

(L) counseling about age or disability discrimination in employment and housing; and

(M) litigation and administrative advocacy in connection with any of the above matters, including will contests, contested capacity issues, elder abuse (including financial or consumer fraud), fiduciary administration, public benefits, nursing home torts, and discrimination.

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 other lawyers who are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including lawyers who currently practice in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms. The board of legal specialization and education and elder law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(e) Education. The applicant must complete at least 60 hours of continuing legal education requirements in elder law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date as established by the board of legal specialization and education.

(f) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, and experience in elder law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-20.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. Applicants must demonstrate a satisfactory showing of continuous and substantial involvement in the field of elder law throughout the period since the last date of certification as determined by the board of legal specialization and education and the elder law certification committee. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement under the standards for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 125 hours of continuing legal education since the filing of the last application for certification or recertification. Successful passage of the written examination given by the board of legal specialization and education

to new applicants satisfies the continuing legal education requirement if the applicant has completed more than 75 hours of continuing legal education since the filing of the last application.

(c) Peer Review. Peer review is conducted under the standards for initial certification.

Added July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-21. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW RULE 6-21.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in International Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of international law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in international law.

Added Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1261). Amended April 9, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-21.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) International Law. “International law” is the practice of law dealing with issues, problems, or disputes arising from all aspects of the relations between or among states and international organizations as well as the relations between or among nationals of different countries or between a state and a national of another state including transnational business transactions, multinational taxation, customs, and trade. The term “international law” includes foreign and comparative law. Practice of law that otherwise satisfies these requirements but that is on a part-time basis satisfies the requirement if the balance of the applicant’s activity is spent as a teacher of international law subjects in an accredited law school.

(b) Practice of Law. Practice of law that otherwise satisfies these requirements but that is on a part-time basis will satisfy the requirement if the balance of the applicant's activity is spent as a teacher of international law subjects in an accredited law school.

Added Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1261). Amended April 9, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-21.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law either in the United States or abroad and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of not less than 5 years as of the application date. The years of law practice need not be consecutive. Receipt of an LL.M. degree in international law, as defined in this subdivision, or in another field approved by the international law certification committee, may substitute for 1 year of the practice of law requirement, but not the 5-year bar membership requirement specified in this subdivision.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of international law during each of the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. Except for the 2 years immediately preceding application, receipt of an LL.M. degree, as defined in rule 6-21.2(a), may substitute for 1 year of substantial involvement. Substantial involvement means that the applicant has devoted 50 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of international law played a significant role and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation. For purposes of this subdivision, time devoted to lecturing on or writing about international law may be included. Although demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form approved by the international law certification committee, the international law certification committee may at its option require written or oral supplementation.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete at least 60 hours of continuing legal education in the field of international law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, excluding individuals who currently are employed by the same employer as the applicant, to complete peer review forms.

(e) Examination. The applicant shall take and pass an examination designed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, and proficiency in international law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1261). Amended April 9, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-21.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the practice of international law throughout the period since the last date of certification under the standards for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 75 hours of continuing legal education in international law since the filing of the last application for certification under the standards for initial certification.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, excluding individuals who currently are employed by the same employer as the applicant, to complete peer review forms.

(d) Examination. If, after reviewing the material submitted for recertification, the international law certification committee determines that the applicant may not meet the standards

established by this chapter, it may require, as a condition of recertification, that the applicant take and pass the examination specified in rule 6-21.3(e).

Added Dec. 18, 1997, effective Jan. 1, 1998 (702 So.2d 1261). Amended April 9, 1999, by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-22. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN ANTITRUST AND TRADE REGULATION LAW

RULE 6-22.1 GENERALLY

This certification area is closed to new applicants. Each lawyer who has been certified under this subchapter has been issued a certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Antitrust and Trade Regulation Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of antitrust law, unfair methods of competition, and deceptive, unfair, or unconscionable trade practices and who have the special knowledge, skills, experience, and judgment, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in antitrust and trade regulation law. Lawyers who are certified in this area have established that they have a special ability as a consequence of broad and varied experience in antitrust and trade regulation law, including the following:

(a) a ready grasp of the substantive and procedural law bearing on this area of practice;

(b) an awareness of and experience with the range of appropriate courses of action and remedies that can be invoked in aid of clients involved in such matters;

(c) a sound judgment in proposing solutions and approaches, so that proportion both as to expense and delay is maintained between the nature of the problem to be solved and the cost and elaborateness of the proposed response or solution; and

(d) an attitude of professionalism in every aspect of the applicant’s approach to clients, courts, or administrative bodies, and fellow practitioners.

Added and amended March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002); amended December 5, 2003. Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended February 2, 2023, effective April 3, 2023 (SC22-1291).

RULE 6-22.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Antitrust Law. “Antitrust law” is the practice of law dealing with anticompetitive conduct or structure that may reduce consumer welfare in the United States. The primary federal antitrust laws are the Sherman Act, the Clayton Act, the Robinson-Patman Amendments to the Clayton Act, and the Federal Trade Commission Act. In addition, there are parallel state statutes. Generally, the practices that the antitrust laws are concerned with involve, but are not limited to, price fixes, limitations on production, division of markets, boycotts, attempts to monopolize and monopolization, tying of products, covenants to restrain trade, exclusive dealing contracts, price discrimination, and other exclusionary, predatory, or economically discriminatory activities.

(b) Trade Regulation Law. “Trade regulation law” is the substantive area of law dealing with deceptive, unfair, or unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair methods of competition under the Federal Trade Commission Act and Florida’s Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

(c) Contested Matters. “Contested matters” are matters that were pending before an enforcement agency, a tribunal, or court that were adversarial and binding in which the applicant had a significant responsibility and personal involvement, and in which the applicant evaluated, handled, and resolved issues of fact and law in a dispute that involved antitrust or trade regulation law, either by reaching an adjudicated decision, or by achieving a settlement of a matter after it was the subject of substantial litigation or proceedings before an enforcement authority.

(d) Adjudicated Decision. An “adjudicated decision” on significant issues of antitrust or trade regulation law is a decision from a tribunal, jury, or court of appeals:

- (1) on a motion for temporary or preliminary injunction or following an evidentiary hearing involving live testimony;
- (2) on a motion for summary judgment;
- (3) following briefing;
- (4) following a trial; or
- (5) following an appeal.

A single proceeding may generate multiple adjudicated decisions and an applicant will receive credit for each adjudicated decision as a separate contested matter, but the number of adjudicated decisions from any single case within a 3-year period is limited to 2, except for good cause shown.

Added and amended March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002); amended December 5, 2003; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-22.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

This certification area is closed to new applicants.

Added and amended March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002); amended December 5, 2003; amended February 17, 2006; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended February 2, 2023, effective April 3, 2023 (SC22-1291).

RULE 6-22.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must show continuous and substantial involvement in the field of antitrust and trade regulation law. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement by showing that antitrust and trade regulation law comprises at least 30 percent of the applicant's practice, and that the applicant actively participated in client interviewing; counseling; evaluating; investigating; preparing pleadings, motions, and memoranda; participating in discovery; taking testimony; briefing issues; presenting evidence; negotiating settlement; drafting and preparing settlement agreements; or arguing, trying, or appealing cases involving antitrust or trade regulation law.

(b) Minimum Number of Matters. The applicant must have handled a minimum of 4 contested antitrust or trade regulation matters. All contested matters must have involved substantial legal or factual issues in the law of antitrust or trade regulation as determined by the certification committee. The antitrust and trade regulation certification committee will consider involvement in protracted matters as separate matters for satisfaction of the 4 contested matters requirement. Every documented 300 hours of work on antitrust or trade regulation issues in a case is the equivalent of an additional matter for purposes of meeting the minimum of 4 contested matters.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant for recertification must submit the names and addresses of at least 3 lawyers and 1 federal or state judge or administrative law judge before whom the applicant has appeared as an advocate within the period since the last certification or recertification to complete peer review forms. Individuals used as references shall be sufficiently familiar with the applicant to attest to the applicant's special competence and substantial involvement in antitrust and trade regulation law, as well as the applicant's character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism. Lawyers who practiced law with the applicant during the recertification period and relatives may not be used as references.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education for antitrust and trade

regulation certification within the 3 years preceding the application date.

(e) Waiver of Compliance. The antitrust and trade regulation certification committee may waive compliance with subdivisions (a)-(b) of this rule for:

(1) an applicant who has been continuously certified as an antitrust and trade regulation lawyer for a period of 14 years or more; or

(2) an applicant who, since the last certification or recertification, has become an officer of any judicial system (as defined in the Code of Judicial Conduct), including an officer such as a magistrate judge or administrative law judge, or who is a member of the Federal Trade Commission (or a member of its staff), or an assistant attorney general in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice (or a member of his or her staff), or an assistant attorney general in the Antitrust Division of a state attorney general's office on a full-time basis during the portion of the period since the last date of certification or recertification.

Added and amended March 23, 200 (763 So.2df 1002); amended by BoG August 26, 2005; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective July 29, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**6-23. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN LABOR
AND EMPLOYMENT LAW
RULE 6-23.1 GENERALLY**

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice labor and employment law and who have demonstrated special knowledge, skills, and proficiency to be properly identified to the public as board certified in labor and employment law.

Added and amended effective March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-23.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Labor and Employment Law. The practice of labor and employment law is advice and representation concerning the application and interpretation of public and private sector labor and employment law principles, as well as employment discrimination and employment-related civil rights law. Competent practice in labor and employment law requires a thorough knowledge of all legal aspects of the employment relationship, both in the private and public sector. This knowledge is particularly necessary to fulfill the counseling obligations of lawyers toward their clients. This practice area encompasses both public and private sector collective bargaining and the state and federal laws that apply to the employment relationship including, but not limited to:

- (1) the National Labor Relations Act;
- (2) the Fair Labor Standards Act;
- (3) Florida's public sector collective bargaining laws and career service appeals;
- (4) the Employment Retirement Income Security Act;
- (5) the Family Medical Leave Act;
- (6) Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Florida's Civil Rights Act;
- (7) the Americans With Disabilities Act;
- (8) the Occupational Safety and Health Act;
- (9) the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and
- (10) the regulations promulgated under the above.

(b) Primary Lawyer. “Primary Lawyer” is having primary responsibility as lead lawyer for the entirety or discrete portions of a trial or proceeding.

(c) Proceeding. “Proceeding” is a single event including, but not limited to, a trial, deposition, hearing, or arbitration meeting the requirements listed in the minimum standards or recertification, regardless of whether the proceeding occurs within a single day or on more than 1 day.

Added and amended effective March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002); amended and effective January 26, 2018 by the Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-23.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have at least 5 years of the practice of law which at least 50 percent has been spent in active participation in labor and employment law. At least 5 years of this practice must immediately precede the application for certification. An LL.M. in the field of labor and employment law may substitute for 1 of the 5 years of law practice required.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have substantial involvement by demonstrating 50 percent or more of the applicant’s practice to matters in which issues of labor and employment law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those labor and employment law issues. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant’s work and the nature of the issues involved. Demonstration of this requirement is made initially through a form questionnaire approved by the labor and employment law certification committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Experience. The applicant must have a total of 30 days acting as the primary lawyer, judge, hearing officer, referee, master, magistrate, arbitrator, or mediator in litigation or administrative proceedings concerning labor and employment law issues within

the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application for certification. Proceedings include, but are not limited to, trials; evidentiary hearings; arbitrations; collective bargaining; conciliation conferences with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or state deferral agency; on-site inspections by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs; Fair Labor Standards Act audits conducted by the Department of Labor; and unemployment compensation appeal hearings, mediations, court hearings, taking depositions, and oral arguments.

Any proceeding lasting at least 4 hours is credited a full day. Any proceeding lasting fewer than 4 hours, but at least 1 hour, will be credited a half day. Proceedings occurring on the same day and which are of the type for which experience credit may be given under this rule but which are not individually at least one hour in length may be aggregated for purposes of claiming credit. If aggregation is used, the applicant must aggregate all qualifying proceedings occurring during a single day to determine the total hours of proceedings and corresponding credit.

Generally, credit for a single proceeding occurring over multiple days is calculated on a daily basis. However, a single proceeding occurring exclusively in periods of less than 4 hours per day on multiple days is limited to the amount of credit the proceedings would receive if aggregated.

Conducting an oral argument at a state or federal appellate court automatically entitles the applicant to 1 full day of credit, regardless of the amount of time that is allotted to the oral argument by the court. The applicant may also seek credit from the certification committee for activities not listed in this rule that involve labor and employment issues that are of sufficient complexity and otherwise demonstrate the applicant's labor and employment law experience. Experience credit to be awarded for any of these additional activities is at the sole discretion of the certification committee.

The following are not accepted as proceedings satisfying the 30-day experience requirement: attendance at pre-trial conferences; attendance at scheduling and status conferences; defending depositions; preparation of pleadings, written discovery, motions, memoranda, briefs, and position statements; and participation in investigations by administrative agencies unless that participation involves in-person activities including an online visit, inspection, or audit or other covered activities including hearings or mediation.

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 6 lawyers who are familiar with the applicant's practice excluding lawyers who currently practice in the applicant's law firm to complete peer review forms. The labor and employment law certification committee must seek at least 3 additional secondary references. At least 1 of the 6 references must be from a judge, arbitrator, mediator, or administrator before whom the applicant has appeared or practiced (or in the case of a mediator or arbitrator seeking certification, references may be from lawyers who have appeared before the applicant) within the 2 years immediately preceding the application.

(e) Education. The applicant must complete 60 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in labor and employment law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the labor and employment law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(f) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination applied uniformly to all applicants, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, and experience in labor and employment law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public. The examination will be comprehensive in scope and each applicant will be required to demonstrate at least some knowledge in each specific subject tested.

Added and amended effective March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002); amended August 26, 2005; amended and effective January 26, 2018 by the Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-23.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in labor and employment law throughout the period since filing the last application for certification. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted 50 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of labor and employment law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those labor and employment law issues. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Demonstration of this requirement is made initially through a form questionnaire approved by the labor and employment law certification committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(b) Experience. The applicant must have 25 days of involvement acting as the primary lawyer, judge, hearing officer, referee, master, magistrate, arbitrator, or mediator in litigation or administrative proceedings concerning labor and employment law issues within the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application for recertification. Proceedings include, but are not limited to, trials; evidentiary hearings; arbitrations; collective bargaining; conciliation conferences with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or state deferral agency; on-site inspections by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs; Fair Labor Standards Act audits conducted by the Department of Labor; and unemployment compensation appeal hearings, mediations, court hearings, taking depositions, and oral arguments.

Any proceeding lasting at least 4 hours will be credited as a full day. Any proceeding lasting fewer than 4 hours, but at least 1 hour, will be credited as a half day. Proceedings occurring on the same day and are of the type for which experience credit may be given under this rule but are not individually at least 1 hour in length may be aggregated for purposes of claiming credit. If aggregation is used, the applicant must aggregate all qualifying

proceedings occurring during a single day to determine the total hours of proceedings and corresponding credit.

Generally, credit for a single proceeding occurring over multiple days is calculated on a daily basis. However, a single proceeding occurring exclusively in periods of less than 4 hours a day on multiple days is limited to the amount of credit the proceeding would receive if aggregated.

Conducting an oral argument at a state or federal appellate court automatically entitles the applicant to 1 full day of credit, regardless of the amount of time that is allotted to the oral argument by the court. The applicant may also seek credit from the certification committee for activities not listed in this rule that involve labor and employment issues that are of sufficient complexity and otherwise demonstrate the applicant's labor and employment law experience. Experience credit to be awarded for any of these additional activities will be the sole discretion of the certification committee.

Direct supervision of lawyers engaged in contested matters, as defined above, may be considered in determining compliance with this requirement.

The following activities are not accepted as proceedings satisfying the 25-day experience requirement: attendance at pre-trial conferences, attendance at scheduling and status conferences, defending depositions, preparation of pleadings, preparation of written discovery, preparation of motions, memoranda, briefs, and position statements, and participation in investigations by administrative agencies unless that participation involves in-person activities including an onsite visit, inspection, or audit, or other covered activities, including hearings or mediation.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete 75 hours of continuing legal education in the area of labor and employment law since filing the last application for certification. Passage of the examination given to initial certification applicants will satisfy the education requirement if the applicant has not completed 75 hours.

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 3 lawyers and at least 1 judge, arbitrator, mediator, or administrator before whom the lawyer has appeared or practiced since the last application for certification to complete peer review forms. The references may not include lawyers who currently practice in the applicant’s law firm.

(e) Waiver of Compliance. For an applicant who has been continuously certified as a labor and employment lawyer for a period of 14 years or more, the labor and employment law certification committee may waive compliance with either the experience or substantial involvement criterion for recertification, for good cause shown and provided the applicant has complied with all other requirements for recertification.

Added and amended effective March 23, 2000 (763 So.2d 1002); amended August 26, 2005; amended and effective January 26, 2018 by Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-24. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN CONSTRUCTION LAW

RULE 6-24.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Construction Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice construction law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in construction law.

Added May 20, 2004 (SC03-705). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-24.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Construction Law. “Construction law” is the practice of law dealing with matters relating to the design and construction of

improvements on private and public projects including, but not limited to, construction dispute resolution, contract negotiation, preparation, award and administration, lobbying in governmental hearings, oversight and document review, construction lending and insurance, construction licensing, and the analysis and litigation of problems arising out of the Florida Construction Lien Law, section 255.05, Florida Statutes, and the federal Miller Act, 40 U.S.C. §270.

(b) Construction Law Certification Committee. The construction law certification committee must include a minimum of 3 members with experience in transactional construction law and 3 members with experience in construction law litigation.

Added May 20, 2004 (SC03-705); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-24.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law in the United States or engaged in the practice of United States law while in a foreign country and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the date of filing an application. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in construction law to become certified as a construction lawyer. The applicant must have at least 5 years of the practice of law, of which at least 40 percent has been spent in active participation in construction law where issues of construction law were significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those construction law issues. At least 3 years of this practice must be immediately preceding application. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on construction law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a

form of questionnaire approved by the construction law certification committee but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including attorneys who currently practice in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms. The board of legal specialization and education and the construction law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 45 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in construction law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination, applied uniformly to all applicants, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, and experience in the practice of law applicable to the design and construction of projects in Florida construction law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added May 20, 2004 (SC03-705); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-24.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in construction law of 40 percent or more during each year after certification or prior recertification under the minimum standards for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 75 hours of approved continuing legal education in construction law since the last application.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are familiar with the applicant's practice, not including lawyers who currently practice in the applicant's law firm, to complete peer review forms.

Added May 20, 2004 (SC03-705); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-25. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE

6-25.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice law before or on behalf of state and federal government entities and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism to be properly identified to the public as board certified in state and federal government and administrative practice.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

6-25.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice. “State and federal government and administrative practice” is the practice of law on behalf of public or private clients on matters including, but not limited to, rulemaking or adjudication associated with state or federal government entity actions such as contracts, licenses, orders, permits, policies, or rules. State and federal government and administrative practice also includes appearing before or presiding as an administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, or member of an administrative tribunal or panel over a dispute involving an administrative or government action. The term also includes participation in Florida's legislative process as a legislator, legislative staff, or lobbyist.

(b) Government Entity. “Government entity” is any state agency, political subdivision, special district, or instrumentality of the state of Florida, and any federal agency, bureau, corporation, instrumentality, or other government body of the United States,

including the United States armed forces. This definition should be broadly construed.

(c) Lead Advocate. “Lead advocate” is serving as a primary lawyer with substantial participation and responsibility in a matter, working on behalf of either a private party or a government entity by providing direct legal counsel on state and federal government and administrative practice matters or advocating on behalf of the client in those matters. Service as a supervisor and signatory of legal documents, but without substantial participation in the preparation of those documents, does not constitute service as a lead advocate. Service in the role of lead advocate also includes presiding as an administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, or member of an administrative tribunal or panel over a dispute involving an administrative or government action.

(d) State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice Certification Committee. The state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee includes at least 2 lawyers employed by government entities in Florida, and at least 3 lawyers in private practice. While all committee members should have experience in rulemaking and adjudication, the committee should also include at least 2 lawyers whose state and federal government and administrative practice is primarily non-litigation.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 28, 2025 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-25.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in a state or federal government and administrative practice for at least 5 years preceding the application date. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of Florida and

federal government and administrative law practice during the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. The board of legal specialization and education may waive the requirement that the 3 years be immediately preceding the application date for good cause shown at the applicant's request and if recommended by the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of Florida and federal government and administrative law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those Florida and federal government and administrative law matters. Experience working on matters exclusively involving city, county, and local government law (such as code enforcement, municipal financing and licensing, local referenda, ordinances, and zoning) does not constitute practical experience for purposes of obtaining state and federal government and administrative practice certification. The applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Time devoted to lecturing or authoring books or articles on administrative law substitutes for the practice of law if the applicant was engaged in the practice of law during that time period. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement is made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 individuals, at least 4 of whom are lawyers and 1 of whom is a federal, state, or administrative law judge before whom the applicant has appeared within the 5 years immediately preceding application to complete peer review forms. Individuals who currently practice in the applicant's law firm or government entity or are relatives of the applicant may not be used as references. The applicant may provide the name and address of the head of a government entity or a member of a collegial board that serves as the head of a government entity in lieu of a judicial reference if the applicant has advised or appeared before the person within the 5 years immediately preceding application.

Administrative law judges or hearing officers applying for certification may offer the reference of a lawyer who has appeared before them more than once, or, if appropriate, the reference of the chief administrative law judge or hearing officer. In all cases, at least 2 of the lawyer references must be members of The Florida Bar, and at least one of them must devote at least 40 percent or more of their practice to matters involving issues of Florida and federal government and administrative law. The board of legal specialization and education and the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete at least 50 hours of the continuing legal education requirements in state and federal government and administrative practice during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date as established by the board of legal specialization and education.

(e) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination applied uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, and experience in state and federal government and administrative practice to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 28, 2025 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-25.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification:

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate a satisfactory showing of continuous and substantial involvement in the field of Florida and federal government and administrative law and throughout the period since the last date of certification as determined by the board of legal specialization and education and the state and federal government and administrative

practice certification committee. Substantial involvement means the applicant has devoted at least 40 percent or more of the applicant's practice to matters in which issues of Florida and federal government and administrative law are significant factors and in which the applicant had substantial and direct participation in those Florida and federal government and administrative law matters. Experience working on matters exclusively involving city, county, and local government law (such as code enforcement, municipal financing and licensing, local referenda, ordinances, and zoning) does not constitute practical experience for purposes of obtaining state and federal government and administrative practice recertification. An applicant must furnish information concerning the frequency of the applicant's work and the nature of the issues involved. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement may be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee and written or oral supplementation may be required. The board of legal specialization and education and the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee may accept an affidavit from the applicant attesting to the applicant's compliance with the substantial involvement requirement.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of continuing legal education in state and federal government and administrative practice since the last application for certification or recertification. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 individuals, at least 2 of whom are lawyers and 1 of whom is a federal, state, or administrative law judge, to complete peer review forms. Individuals who currently practice in the applicant's law firm or government entity may not be used as references. The applicant may provide the name and address of the head of a government entity or a member of a collegial board that serves as the head of a government entity in lieu of a judicial

reference if the applicant has advised or appeared before the person within the 5 years preceding the application. Both lawyer references must be members of The Florida Bar. Individuals who currently practice in the applicant's law firm or government entity or are relatives of the applicant may not be used as references. The board of legal specialization and education and the state and federal government and administrative practice certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Waiver of Compliance. Any applicant for recertification who at the time of application is serving and has served full time for 3 or more years as an administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, or member of an administrative tribunal or panel is deemed to meet the recertification criteria.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 28, 2025 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-25.5 MANNER OF LISTING AREA OF CERTIFICATION

A member certified in state and federal government and administrative practice may list the area in the manner set forth under rule 6-3.9(a) or the listing may be abridged to indicate that the member is board certified in:

- (1) state and federal government practice;
- (2) state and federal administrative practice; or
- (3) Florida administrative practice.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); amended and effective December 10, 2010 by the Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 28, 2025 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**6-26. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
6-26.1 GENERALLY**

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Intellectual Property Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice intellectual property law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in intellectual property law.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123). Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

6-26.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Patent Application Prosecution. “Patent application prosecution” is the practice of law dealing with patent rights, and covers all aspects of the U. S. Patent Statutes, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1-376, as amended; the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases, 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.1 – 1.997, as amended; the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) rules of practice, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), the Patent Cooperation Treaty (as modified by any later court decisions or Official Gazette notices); the Assignment, Recording and Rights of Assignee, 37 C.F.R. §§ 3.1 – 3.85, as amended; the Secrecy of Certain Inventions and Licenses to Export and File Application in Foreign Countries, 37 C.F.R. §§ 5.1 – 5.33, as amended; the Register of Government Interests in Patents, 37 C.F.R. § 3.58, as amended; and Representations of Others before the USPTO, 37 C.F.R. §§ 10.1 – 10.170, as amended, as well as representing clients in proceedings before the USPTO.

(1) A “patent” is a governmental grant derived from the United States Constitution to encourage innovation and a form of protected personal property under federal statute set forth in title 35 of the United States Code that guarantees the holder of a U.S.

patent a right to exclude others from making, using, offering to sell, selling, or importing an invention for a statutory period of years.

(2) “Patent matters” are the areas of knowledge required of lawyers registered to practice before the USPTO, including: rules, practice, and procedure; understanding how to draft claims and the ability to properly draft claims; knowledge about preparation and prosecution of patent applications based on education in and practical experience in engineering or science; understanding the application of patent laws to that endeavor; preparation of patentability opinions; filing and prosecuting patent applications, interferences, and re-issuances; preparing opinions concerning the validity or infringement of patents; prosecuting patent applications at the USPTO and in foreign jurisdictions; and the re-examination of patents.

(b) Patent Infringement Litigation. “Patent infringement litigation” is the practice of law (including substantive law, evidence, and procedure) dealing with the litigation of patents in federal district courts and appeals to the federal circuit of the United States of America, and includes: Service of Process, 37 C.F.R. §§ 15.1 – 15.3; and Testimony of Employees and the Production of Documents in Legal Proceedings, 37 C.F.R. §§ 15.11 – 15.18. Infringement of a patent is a tort giving rise to a federal cause of action for a form of trespass. The grant of a patent by the USPTO carries with it the presumption of validity, including compliance with federal statutes. Invalidity is a defense to a claim for patent infringement and may be based on a number of factors, including: anticipation; obviousness; derivation; failure to disclose “best mode”; estoppel and laches; ineligible subject matter; lack of utility or operability; lack of enabling disclosure; claim indefiniteness; double patenting; inequitable conduct; violation of antitrust law; and non-infringement.

(1) “Contested matters” are hearings before a tribunal or court that are adversarial, evidentiary, and binding in which the applicant has had a senior-level responsibility, and in which the applicant evaluated, handled, and resolved issues of fact and law in a dispute that involved a patent, either by reaching an adjudicated

decision or by achieving a settlement before final adjudication or appeal.

(2) An “adjudicated decision” is a decision resulting from a proceeding in which: a tribunal rendered a decision on a motion for preliminary injunction following an evidentiary hearing involving live testimony; a tribunal rendered a decision on a motion for summary judgment; a tribunal rendered a decision on significant issues of patent law following briefing (e.g., a Markman hearing, a Daubert hearing, etc.); or a tribunal or jury rendered a decision following a trial, or the federal circuit court of appeals rendered a decision following an appeal. A single proceeding may generate multiple adjudicated decisions and an applicant receives credit for 2 of these qualifying adjudicated decision as a separate contested matters.

(c) Trademark Law. “Trademark law” is the practice of law dealing with all aspects of the Trademark Act of 1946 (the “Lanham Act”), as amended, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051-1127, Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984, as amended, 18 U.S.C. § 2320, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. §§ 1337 and 1526, Chapter 495 of the Florida Statutes, as amended (the “Florida Trademark Law”), and common law principles, including: advising clients as to ownership, registration, transfer, validity, dilution, enforceability, and infringement of trademarks in the state of Florida, the United States and internationally; representing clients in proceedings before the USPTO and the Florida Department of State; and representing clients in proceedings in federal or state courts, or in arbitration, relating to the ownership, registration, licensing, transfer, validity, dilution, enforcement, and infringement of trademarks.

(1) A “trademark” is defined to include trademarks, service marks, certification marks, and collective marks. Each of these forms of marks has the meaning given in the Florida Trademark Law, Fla. Stat. § 495.011(1)-(4). A “trademark” is further defined to include trade dress as that term is used in the Restatement Third, Unfair Competition, Section 16, and domain names as that term is used in the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d).

(2) “Contested matters” are hearings before a tribunal or court that are adversarial, evidentiary, and binding in which the applicant has had senior-level responsibility, and in which the applicant evaluated, handled, and resolved substantial issues of fact and law in a dispute that involved a trademark, either by reaching an adjudicated decision, or by achieving a settlement before final adjudication or appeal.

(3) An “adjudicated decision” is a decision resulting from a proceeding in which: a tribunal rendered a decision on a motion for temporary or preliminary injunction following an evidentiary hearing involving live testimony; a tribunal rendered a decision on a motion for summary judgment; a tribunal rendered a decision on significant issues of trademark law following briefing in the USPTO; or a tribunal or jury rendered a decision following a trial. A single proceeding may generate multiple adjudicated decisions, and an applicant receives credit for 2 of these qualifying adjudicated decisions as separate contested matters.

(4) “Substantive refusal” is a refusals of trademark applications during ex parte USPTO prosecution under Section 2 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052.

(d) Copyright Law. “Copyright law” is the practice of law dealing with the protection of the works of the human intellect (literature, music, art, computer programs, etc.) under the copyright laws of the United States, including: subject matter; ownership; duration; registration; formalities; exclusive rights; transfers and licensing, including the rights and obligations of parties, appropriate terms and conditions in licensing contracts, antitrust and misuse constraints, international licensing considerations; contested matters relating to claims of infringement of copyrights and to disputes regarding the authorship, ownership, licensing, and transfer of copyrighted works, including infringement actions and defenses, remedies, jurisdiction and venue, jury considerations, federal preemption of state law; the Copyright Acts of 1909 and 1976, as amended; recent amendments to copyright law such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act; and international aspects of copyright, including the Berne convention and other treaties on copyright and related subjects. The primary federal copyright law is

contained in Title 17 of the United States Code. Generally, the practices that the copyright law is concerned with involve, but are not limited to, registration, licensing, transfer, and protection of copyrighted works.

(1) “Contested matters” are hearings before a tribunal or court that were adversarial, evidentiary, and binding in which the applicant had a senior-level responsibility, and in which the applicant evaluated, handled, and resolved substantial issues of fact and law in a dispute that involved a copyright, either by reaching an adjudicated decision, or by achieving a settlement before final adjudication or appeal.

(2) An “adjudicated decision” is a decision resulting from a proceeding in which: a tribunal rendered a decision on a motion for temporary or preliminary injunction following an evidentiary hearing involving live testimony; a tribunal rendered a decision on a motion for summary judgment; or a tribunal or jury rendered a decision following a trial. A single proceeding may generate multiple adjudicated decisions and an applicant receives credit for 2 of these qualifying adjudicated decisions as separate contested matters.

(e) Intellectual Property Law Certification Committee.

The intellectual property law certification committee consists of 9 members, including a minimum of 3 registered patent lawyers with experience in patent application prosecution, 2 members with experience in patent infringement litigation, 2 members with experience in trademark law, and 2 members with experience in copyright law.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-26.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of law for at least 5 years immediately preceding the application date. Practicing “patent application

prosecution,” as defined in section 6-26.2(a), before the USPTO as a registered patent attorney or registered patent agent shall be deemed to constitute the practice of law for purposes of the 5-year practice requirement.

(b) Substantial Involvement. Substantial involvement means at least 30 percent of the applicant’s practice during the 3 years immediately preceding application has been devoted to matters involving intellectual property law.

During the 5 years immediately preceding application, the applicant must satisfy 1 of the following categories.

(1) *Patent Application Prosecution.* The applicant must have handled a minimum of 40 patent matters that involved representation of a client with senior-level responsibility. The quality of the applicant’s work and the nature of the issues involved are factors in determining eligibility for certification. Demonstration of compliance with this requirement shall be made initially through a form of questionnaire approved by the intellectual property law certification committee, but written or oral supplementation (including copies of work product) may be required. Verified substantial involvement in patent matters at a government agency may be considered for satisfaction of part of the 40 patent matters that involved representation of a client for good cause shown. Verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(2) *Patent Infringement Litigation.* The applicant must have handled with senior-level responsibility a minimum of 5 contested matters in litigation or on appeal in which there was an adjudicated decision. Additionally, the applicants must have devoted a minimum of 800 hours per year to litigation matters generally, at least 300 hours per year of which must have been devoted to patent infringement litigation. The applicant must have, tried a patent infringement litigation matter to the close of testimony, verdict, or judgment within the last 10 years. The applicant must submit work product samples and a transcript (if available) for each contested matter. Verified substantial

involvement in patent infringement litigation at a government agency may be considered for satisfaction in part of the minimum requirements for good cause shown. Verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(3) *Trademark Law.* The applicant must have handled with senior-level responsibility either a minimum of 6 contested matters, 25 responses to substantive refusals, or a combination of the 2. Substantive refusals on which the applicant relies must not have involved merely technical corrections, insignificant matters, or abandonment. The applicant must submit work product samples and a transcript (if available) for each contested matter. In addition, the applicant must have engaged in at least 300 hours each year in the practice of law in which the applicant has had substantial senior-level participation in legal matters involving trademark law. Three contested matters involving in the aggregate no less than 50 hours of in-session hearing or trial satisfies the requirement of 6 contested matters. Verified substantial involvement in a combination of contested matters and responses to substantive refusals is considered for satisfaction in whole or in part of the requirement of 6 contested matters or 25 responses to substantive refusals for good cause shown. Verified substantial involvement in trademark matters at a government agency may be considered in lieu of representation of clients for satisfaction in part of the minimum requirements for good cause shown. Verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(4) *Copyright Law.* The applicant must have handled a minimum of 40 substantive matters that involved representation of a client with senior-level responsibility, with a minimum of 300 hours per year devoted to such matters. The ministerial preparation of a copyright registration is not considered a substantive matter for purposes of certification. The applicant must submit work product samples and, if the applicant also relies on participation in contested matters, the applicant must submit all available transcripts in each contested matter. Verified substantial involvement in copyright matters at a government agency may be

considered in lieu of representation of clients for satisfaction in part of the minimum requirements for good cause shown. Verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 6 lawyers or judges to complete peer review forms who neither are relatives nor current associates, partners, or who otherwise practice law in an of-counsel relationship with the applicant, to serve as references. Individuals submitted as references shall be substantially involved in intellectual property law and shall be familiar with the applicant's practice.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 45 credit hours of approved continuing legal education during the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of an application for intellectual property law certification.

(e) Examination. The examination is comprehensive in scope and each applicant will be required to demonstrate at least some knowledge in each specific subject tested. Applicants have the opportunity to emphasize special knowledge in 1 or more specific subject areas.

(f) Exemption. The applicant is not required to take the section(s) of the examination on patent application prosecution as defined elsewhere if currently a registered patent attorney in good standing with the USPTO. The applicant is not required to take the section(s) of the examination on the litigation process if currently certified by The Florida Bar in civil trial or business litigation.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-26.4 RECERTIFICATION

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in matters involving intellectual property law throughout the period since the last date of certification or recertification by demonstrating that intellectual

property law comprises at least 30 percent of the applicant's practice. During the 5 years immediately preceding application, the applicant must comply with the requirements in at least 1 of the following categories.

(1) *Patent Application Prosecution.* The applicant must have handled a minimum of 30 patent matters that involved representation of a client with senior-level responsibility. The applicant may provide verified substantial involvement in patent matters at a government agency in lieu of representation of clients to satisfy part of the 30 patent matters for good cause shown. Verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(2) *Patent Infringement Litigation.* The applicant must have handled a minimum of 5 contested matters in litigation or on appeal with senior-level responsibility in which there was an adjudicated decision. The applicant may substitute completion of an approved, multi-day, intensive advocacy-training course where the applicant performed and was satisfactorily critiqued by recognized experts for 2 of the 5 contested matters. The applicant may serve as a judge or an arbitrator in a contested matter involving an adjudicated decision concerning a patent, or may serve as an advocacy instructor in an intellectual property law continuing legal education program in lieu of senior-level responsibility as an advocate for a party to satisfy the 5 contested matters in part for good cause shown. The board of legal specialization and education or intellectual property law certification committee may consider substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(3) *Trademark Law.* The applicant must have handled either a minimum of 4 contested matters or 15 responses to substantive refusals of the application. In addition, an applicant must have engaged in at least 300 hours each year in the practice of law in which the applicant had substantial and direct senior-level participation in legal matters involving trademark law. Two contested matters involving in the aggregate no less

than 2 days of in-session hearing or trial satisfy the requirement of 4 contested matters. The board of specialization and education or intellectual property law certification committee may consider verified substantial involvement in a combination of contested matters and responses to substantive refusals resulting in allowance in satisfaction of the minimum number of matters in whole or part for good cause shown. The applicant may serve as a judge or an arbitrator in a contested matter involving an adjudicated decision concerning a trademark or may serve as an advocacy instructor in an intellectual property continuing legal education program, in lieu of senior-level responsibility as an advocate for a party. The board of specialization and education or intellectual property law certification committee may consider verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(4) *Copyright Law.* The applicant must have handled a minimum of 30 matters with senior-level responsibility that involved representation of a client. The applicant may serve as a judge or an arbitrator in a contested matter involving an adjudicated decision concerning a copyright or may serve as an advocacy instructor in an intellectual property law continuing legal education program in lieu of senior-level responsibility as an advocate for a party to satisfy the requirement in whole or part good cause shown. The board of specialization and education or intellectual property law certification committee may consider verified substantial involvement in other areas of intellectual property law may also be considered to demonstrate overall proficiency.

(b) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 3 lawyers or judges to complete peer review forms, who neither are relatives nor current associates, partners, or who otherwise practice law in an of-counsel relationship with the applicant. Individuals submitted as references shall be substantially involved in intellectual property law and shall be familiar with the applicant's practice.

(c) Education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of approved continuing legal education in intellectual property law since the filing of the last application for certification.

Added July 6, 2006, effective August 1, 2006, (SC06 1269), (933 So.2d 1123); Amended October 3, 2008 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors, effective October 3, 2008; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-27 STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN EDUCATION LAW RULE 6-27.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Education Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice in the area of education law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism to be properly identified to the public as board certified in education law.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343).
Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-27.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Education Law. “Education law” is the practice of law involving the legal rights, responsibilities, procedures, and practices of educational institutions, students, personnel employed by or on behalf of educational institutions, and the guardians and parents of students participating in education. The term “education law” is also the practice of law on behalf of public or private clients in matters including, but not limited to, state, federal, and local laws, regulations, and proceedings involving student rights and student discipline; administrative law and rules regulating the operations of schools and education in Florida; charter schools; finance issues involving educational institutions, including bond indebtedness, certificates of participation, impact fees, and educational benefit districts; litigation involving educational institutions, including

matters of sovereign immunity, civil rights in educational environments, including the civil rights of students and personnel in education; labor issues involving educational institutions, including standards of professional performance and practices involving personnel employed by or on behalf of educational institutions; private school contract matters and litigation involving private school entities; disability law, including § 504, Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, and the Americans With Disabilities Act; laws of general governance, including the Sunshine Law, Public Records Act, Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Officials, purchasing and bid issues; and construction, land use and development law as these areas relate to educational facilities. The purpose of education law certification is to identify lawyers who, although they may not practice substantially in each of these areas, nonetheless concentrate their practice of law in a wide variety of these categories of law in the educational environment, either on behalf of persons dealing with or receiving educational services, or as practitioners on behalf of educational institutions. “Education law” also includes presiding as an administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, judge or member of another tribunal or panel over a dispute involving education law issues.

(b) Educational Institution. “Educational institution” is any entity, private, public, for-profit or not-for-profit, that has appropriate licensure (or otherwise is legally authorized) as a provider of educational services and instruction and is primarily devoted to the provision of education and instruction to persons of any age. Without limitation, examples of educational institutions are public school boards and school districts, public and private universities, community colleges, private schools, charter schools, and technical or trade schools.

(c) Lead Advocate. “Lead advocate” is serving as the primary lawyer, whether as a team leader or alone, working on behalf of either a private party or an educational institution. Service as a supervisor and signatory of legal documents, but without substantial participation in the preparation of those documents, does not constitute service as lead advocate. Service in the role of lead advocate also includes presiding as a judge, administrative law

judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, or member of an administrative tribunal or panel hearing or presiding over a dispute involving a matter of education law.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-27.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of education law for at least 5 years immediately preceding the application date and been a member in good standing of the bar of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a period of 5 years as of the application date.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of education law during at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the application date.

The applicant's examples from the following actions must total at least 50 points during the 5 years immediately preceding the application date using the point values and limitations assigned below. The applicant may only take points under 1 subdivision for each project of work unless expressly permitted by the standard itself in the following subdivisions. The applicant must elect the category under which the applicant wishes to receive points for the work in cases where a project is subject to points in more than 1 category and the rule does not expressly allow for points to be earned in more than 1 category.

(1) *Items Worth 5 Points.* The maximum points allowable for this subdivision is 30. Each item is worth 5 points or as otherwise indicated.

(A) Participation as lead lawyer in formal or informal administrative hearings in which questions or matters of education law were at issue and adjudicated through final order pursuant to the Florida Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120,

Florida Statutes is worth 5 points. Student suspension hearings and expulsion hearings that are not appealed to a court do not qualify. The applicant will receive an additional 3 points if the matter is appealed and the appeal is concluded by a court order, or decision, or otherwise resolved after the case is fully briefed. The applicant may also claim the 4 points available for participation as lead lawyer in rulemaking proceedings through rule adoption pursuant to Florida Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120, Florida Statutes, involving a question or matter of education law or a rule on behalf of an educational institution for a total of 9 points if the applicant qualifies.

(B) Participation as lead lawyer in fully adjudicated administrative actions (including any formal arbitration or mediation proceeding) not included in (A) above in which questions or matters of education law were at issue including, but not limited, to labor and employment, rulemaking proceedings pursuant to the Federal Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 551-559, and any arbitration agreement or federally required proceeding, including record review proceedings, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706, are worth 5 points. The applicant will receive an additional 3 points for each matter appealed and concluded by a court or fully briefed to the court before the appeal is concluded. The applicant may also claim the 4 points available for participation as lead lawyer in rulemaking proceedings through rule adoption pursuant to Florida Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120, Florida Statutes, involving a question or matter of education law or a rule on behalf of an educational institution for a total of 9 points if the applicant qualifies.

(C) Participation as lead lawyer in fully adjudicated trial court proceedings in state or federal court in which questions or matters of education law were at issue is worth 5 points. The applicant will receive an additional 3 points for each matter appealed and concluded by a court or fully briefed to the court before the appeal is concluded.

(2) *Items Worth 4 Points.* The maximum points allowable for this subdivision is 32. Each item is worth 4 points or as otherwise indicated.

(A) Participation as lead lawyer in rulemaking proceedings through rule adoption pursuant to Florida Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120, Florida Statutes, involving a question or matter of education law or a rule on behalf of an educational institution is worth 4 points.

(B) Participation as lead lawyer in administrative, state, or federal court litigation and arbitration in which substantial questions or issues of education law were presented and resulted in settlement before final adjudication is worth 4 points.

(C) Conducting appeals as lead lawyer in which the applicant either represented an educational institution or a party seeking relief against an educational institution on a question involving education law are worth 4 points. Appellate matters that are settled on appeal are included, but only if the applicant as lead lawyer filed at least 1 substantive brief in the appeal, including the appeal of student disciplinary matters pursuant to §120.68, Florida Statutes.

(D) Participation as lead lawyer in complaints in which the applicant prepared a response to, provided services in the investigation of, or negotiated resolution of complaints filed with state or federal government agencies including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office for Civil Rights, or Florida Department of Education is worth 4 points.

(3) *Items Worth 3 Points.* The maximum points allowable for this subdivision is 30 points. Each item is worth 3 points or as otherwise indicated.

(A) Participation in student disciplinary hearings as a hearing officer or as lead lawyer before a hearing officer or an educational institution which were not appealed to a court are worth 3 points.

(B) Obtaining an advisory opinion from the Florida Commission on Ethics, Florida or United States Attorney General, the Florida or United States Department of Education, or any constituent division of those entities on behalf of an educational institution as lead lawyer is worth 3 points.

(C) Participation as lead lawyer for a party or an educational institution before any governmental organization in a formal public meeting (Sunshine Meeting under § 286.011, Florida Statutes), including an appearance before an educational institution as lead lawyer for that entity, involving a question of education law is worth 3 points. The applicant will receive 3 points for appearing as lead lawyer representing an educational institution before a local government or the Florida Department of Community Affairs on matters involving land use planning or zoning issues, appearing before a governmental entity or agency to advocate a matter of interest to a public or private client involving a question of education law or a matter of interest to an educational institution, or any other formal appearances before regulatory bodies and authorities involving a question of education law or matters of concern to an educational institution. The applicant will not receive points when this appearance is in connection with another matter covered by another subdivision including appearing before an educational institution in an executive session to discuss pending litigation or appearing in connection with a disciplinary hearing if points are awarded.

(D) Participation as a registered lobbyist in support of a rule or law before any governmental authority on a regulation or law involving education, education law, or a matter of concern to an educational institution is worth 3 points. Each law or regulation for which the applicant has advocated before an authority constitutes a separate matter of experience for accumulation of these points.

(E) Conducting an investigation as lead lawyer on behalf of an educational institution or represented a party being investigated during an investigation conducted by or on behalf of an educational institution is worth 3 points. This includes all internal review procedures and work related to issues involving scientific misconduct, plagiarism, breach of test security, Institutional Review Board meetings, tenure, dismissal from or sanction of employment, and advising managerial staff or the governing body of an educational institution regarding these matters. Likewise, points in this category are awarded for each client involved in any of these

types of matters in which the client is or may be adverse to an educational institution.

(F) Serving as lead lawyer in an attempt to resolve a matter involving educational law as defined elsewhere through mediation or other negotiations, prior to the matter being filed in an administrative or judicial tribunal is worth 3 points.

(G) Performing internal audits for an educational institution including, but not limited to, assessing wage hour compliance and handbook review is worth 3 points.

(4) *Items Worth 2 Points.* The maximum points allowable for this subdivision is 30. Two points will be awarded for each of the following actions on behalf of a client or educational institution involving a question of education law, to the extent the work is not covered by or included in the work under another subdivision of these standards:

(A) preparation of an opinion letter regarding a question or matter of education law;

(B) preparation of a contract involving educational services, technology, or other matters that will facilitate or allow for the delivery of educational services, or in which an educational institution is a party;

(C) preparation of rules of procedure on behalf of an educational institution;

(D) evaluation of a charter school application;

(E) presentation of training addressing an education law topic delivered to district or university staff or lawyers in which continuing legal education credit is awarded to the speaker or attendees;

(F) service as legal advisor to the negotiating team of an educational institution through completion of a collective bargaining agreement; or

(G) other miscellaneous activities performed as lead lawyer on a discrete and describable education law matter for an educational institution or party and which the committee determines reflects substantial involvement in the practice of education law.

(c) Additional Points. The education law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education may increase the number of points granted for activities worth 4 or 5 points for good cause shown, including the significant impact of a particular case on a question of education law.

(d) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 individuals, at least 4 of whom are lawyers and 1 of whom is a federal, state, or administrative law judge before whom the applicant has appeared within the past 5 years preceding the application date to complete peer review forms. The applicant may provide the name and address of the head of an educational institution (or a member of a collegiate body that serves as the head of the educational institution) in lieu of a judicial reference if the applicant has advised or appeared before that person within the 5-year period preceding the application date. The lawyer references must be members of The Florida Bar and may not be persons who practice currently in the applicant's law firm nor employed in the same law department at the same educational institution as the applicant at the time the application is filed. The board of legal specialization and education and the education law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(e) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in education law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(f) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination administered uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, experience, and professionalism in education law to justify the representation of special competence in education law to the legal profession and the public.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343); amended and effective October 6, 2017 by Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-27.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in education law throughout the period since the last date of certification or recertification as lead lawyer on behalf of a private client or educational institution in matters totaling at least 10 points from the items for the substantial involvement requirement in the minimum standards for initial certification. The applicant has met the substantial involvement requirement if the applicant is serving or has served as an administrative law judge full-time for at least 3 years.

Service as an administrative law judge, general counsel responsibility for an educational institution or other senior lawyer experience with supervisory responsibilities on behalf of an educational institution, representation of or membership on a committee working on substantial matters of education law, teaching education law at the college level, substitutes for the 10-point requirement.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 90 credit hours of approved continuing legal education for education law certification. Passage of the examination given to new applicants will satisfy the education requirement if the applicant has completed more than 60 hours of continuing legal education. The applicant substitute 30 hours of continuing legal education by demonstrating involvement as lead lawyer on behalf of a private client or an educational institution in matters of education law since certification or the last recertification, totaling at least 25 points as described in the substantial involvement requirement in the minimum standards for initial certification.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 individuals, at least 2 of whom are lawyers and 1 of whom is a federal, state, or administrative law judge before whom the applicant has appeared during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date to complete peer review forms. In lieu of a judicial reference the applicant may provide the name and address of the head of an educational institution (or a member of a collegiate body that serves as the head of the educational institution) under circumstances where the applicant has advised or appeared before such person within the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date. The lawyer references must be members of The Florida Bar in good standing and may not be members of the applicant's law firm or, if the applicant is employed by an educational institution, the references may not be employed in the same law department at the same educational institution as the applicant at the time the application is filed. The board of legal specialization and education and the education law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(d) Waiver of Compliance. An applicant for recertification who, at the time of application is serving and has served full time for 3 or more years as an administrative law judge, is deemed to meet the recertification criteria in subdivisions 6-27.4(a) and (b).

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-28. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN ADOPTION LAW RULE 6-28.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued an appropriate certificate identifying the lawyer as "Board Certified in Adoption Law." The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice adoption law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in adoption law.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343).
Amended and effective October 16, 2015 by Board of Governors.

RULE 6-28.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) Adoption Law. “Adoption law” is the practice of law dealing with the complexities and legalities of interstate and intrastate adoption placements, including civil controversies arising from termination of the biological parents’ parental rights, the Indian Child Welfare Act, interstate placements controversies before the placement of a child for adoption, and all post-placement proceedings. The practice of adoption law in the state of Florida is generally unique in that decisional, statutory, and procedural laws are specific to this state.

(b) Adoption Placements. “Adoption placements” is the process of surrendering a child for adoption and creating a legal parental relationship between the child and non-relative adoptive parents within the meaning and intent of Florida Statutes.

(c) Contested Adoption Proceedings. “Contested adoption proceedings” is when a litigant contests a proceeding under the Florida Adoption Act. The proceeding may be a contested termination of parental rights in furtherance of adoption, contested adoption judgment, or contested intervention. The proceeding may occur before or after entry of a final judgment of termination of parental rights in furtherance of adoption, a contested stepparent or relative adoption judgment, or order granting or denying intervention.

(d) Adoption Appeal. “Adoption appeal” is any appeal of an issue arising under the Florida Adoption Act, whether the issue was presented pre-or-post finalization of the adoption.

(e) Related Adoption Proceeding. "Related adoption proceeding" is a proceeding commenced under Chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes in which one party challenges the Florida Department of Children and Families' selection of an adoptive family for a child or children committed to the department for adoption or the denial of an adoption subsidy.

(f) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the placement of minor children for adoption within the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(1) *Adoption Placement.* Substantial involvement in adoption placement includes active participation in interviewing and counseling adoptive parents, providing full disclosure to adoptive parents regarding applicable law and the subject minor child, providing legally mandated disclosure to biological and legal parents, investigating issues necessary to assure a legally stable adoption placement, preparation of pleadings, providing notice to individuals legally entitle to notice, taking consents for adoption, presentation of evidence in termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings, attendance at hearings, preparation of interstate adoption documentation, and drafting and preparation of post-placement communication agreements, and authorizing payment of living and medical expenses.

(2) *Contested Adoption Proceedings or Adoption Appeals.* Substantial involvement in a contested adoption proceeding or adoption appeal requires that the applicant demonstrate responsibility for at least 50 percent of the legal work in preparing and presenting the case for any trial, appeal, or evidentiary hearing for disposition by the trier of fact.

(3) *Related Adoption Proceedings.* Substantial involvement in a related adoption proceeding requires that the applicant demonstrate responsibility for at least 50 percent of the legal work in preparing and presenting the case for any evidentiary hearing for disposition by the trier of fact or appeal of the decision.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343); amended and effective May 20, 2016 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 25, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-28.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have at least 5 years of the actual practice of law, of which at least 40 percent has been spent in active participation in adoption law. The applicant must have continuous and substantial involvement in adoption law cases as follows.

Service as a guardian ad litem, standing alone, is not substantial involvement. All qualified adoption placements and contested adoption proceedings must conclude within the required 5-year period, except that an adoption appeal may qualify for consideration after submission of a written brief to the appellate court.

(1) *Adoption Placements.* The applicant must have either presided over as a judge or general magistrate, or handled as an advocate, a minimum of 50 adoption placements in which the applicant was substantially involved as defined in this subchapter. All placements must have involved the placement of a minor child with an adoptive family who is not related to the child within the third degree of consanguinity or is not the minor child's stepparent. The applicant may include no more than 5 cases where substantial involvement is demonstrated on work accomplished for an adoption plan that did not result in an adoptive placement.

(A) The applicant must have appeared before the court as the adoption entity, as defined in the Florida Adoption Act, on behalf of the adoptive parents or as the lawyer for the adoption entity in each of these 50 adoption placements.

(B) The applicant must have been responsible for at least 50 percent of the legal decisions concerning the minor child's adoption placement, termination of the biological and legal parents' parental rights, and finalization of the adoption in each of these 50 adoption placements.

(C) Adoption placements and legal proceedings simultaneously undertaken with respect to the same child or sibling group will be deemed collectively as 1 adoption placement.

(D) Adoption Placements do not include the:

(i) domestication of intercountry adoptions;

(ii) termination of parental rights under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes; or

(iii) finalization of an adoption where the applicant was not substantially involved in the placement of the child as set forth in this subchapter or the termination of parental rights under the Florida Adoption Act.

(2) *Contested Adoption Proceedings or Adoption Appeals.* The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement, as defined in this subdivision, in a minimum of 15 contested adoption proceedings or adoption appeals within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application if the applicant does not meet the minimum requirement of 50 adoption placements. The applicant must demonstrate responsibility for at least 50 percent of the legal work in preparing and presenting the case in each of the 15 contested adoption proceedings or adoption appeals when a contested adoption proceeding or adoption appeal meets the following requirements. Service as a guardian ad litem, standing alone, will not constitute substantial involvement.

(A) *Contested Adoption Proceedings.* A contested adoption proceeding is a contested proceeding under the Florida Adoption Act, including a proceeding to terminate parental rights in furtherance of adoption, an adoption proceeding, or an intervention. An eligible contested adoption includes, but is not limited to, a private adoption placement, a contested stepparent or relative adoption, or a proceeding in which the court grants or denies intervention when the proceeding includes:

(i) an adversarial evidentiary hearing or trial in which the applicant has substantial involvement as defined in this subdivision and the ultimate issues are submitted to the trier of fact for final resolution;

(ii) an adversarial evidentiary hearing or trial in which the applicant has substantial involvement as defined elsewhere in the subdivision and the ultimate issues are resolved with a mediator or by the parties before the issues are submitted to the trier of fact for final resolution; or

(iii) extraordinary, complex contested litigation in which the applicant has substantial involvement as defined in this subdivision and the ultimate issues are resolved with a mediator or by the parties before an adversarial evidentiary hearing or trial.

(B) Adoption Appeal. An adoption appeal is any appeal arising under the Florida Adoption Act, whether the issue was presented pre- or post-finalization of the adoption. An adoption appeal is only eligible for consideration when the applicant establishes that the applicant was responsible for a majority of the legal decisions in each matter, including the filing of principal briefs in an appellate case or the filing of petitions or responses in extraordinary writ cases. In all cases, the applicant must specifically identify any co-counsel and demonstrate that the applicant's level of participation was substantial and direct. In support of the application requesting credit for an adoption appeal, the applicant must submit each brief and appropriately redact all identifying information regarding birth and adoptive families. The applicant must have been responsible for all or at least 50 percent of the legal decisions in each case in each of these 15 contested adoption appeals. A brief, including an amicus brief, written for different appellate levels (i.e. district court, Supreme Court of Florida and federal courts) may be submitted as a separate appellate case handled by the applicant, but cases arising from a single proceeding may not be counted more than twice. Briefs written for different appellate levels must be substantially different in order to be counted twice.

(3) Related Adoption Proceedings. The applicant must have advocated for a party or participant in a related adoption proceeding and demonstrate that the applicant was substantially involved as defined in this subchapter. No more than 3 related adoption proceedings will be counted.

(A) The applicant must have been responsible for at least 50 percent of the legal work in the related adoption proceeding.

(B) Related adoption proceedings and other legal proceedings simultaneously undertaken with respect to the same child or sibling group will be deemed collectively as 1 adoption placement or related adoption proceeding.

(4) Application Requirements. The applicant meets the substantial involvement requirements by submitting proof of 50 adoption placements or 15 contested adoption proceedings or appeals as required in the adoption law certification standards; or the applicant may submit an application detailing substantial involvement in a combination of adoption placements and contested adoption proceedings or appeals to be considered by the committee as follows.

(A) Each adoption placement, contested adoption proceeding, or appeal will be assigned points as set forth below. The applicant must submit a minimum of 100 points for review. Points will be awarded as follows.

(i) Each adoption placement as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 2 points.

(ii) Each contested adoption proceeding as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 6 points.

(iii) Each adoption appeal as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 6 points.

(iv) Each related adoption proceeding as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 6 points.

(B) The point system in this subdivision will be used solely to determine whether an applicant has met the minimum combination number of cases.

(C) Cases that involve the same child or sibling group will not be considered for more than 1 adoption placement,

contested proceeding, or appeal (adoption matter). For good cause shown, the applicant may count cases as 2 adoption matters if the applicant meets the separate substantial involvement requirements for each event. No case involving the same child or sibling group will be counted as more than 2 adoption matters.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 30 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of adoption law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application date. Accreditation of educational hours are subject to policies established by the adoption law certification committee or the board of legal specialization.

(c) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit names and addresses of 6 lawyers who neither are relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. At least 3 of the lawyers must be members of The Florida Bar, with their principal office located in the state of Florida. These lawyers must be involved in adoption law and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on adoption matters within the 2-year period immediately preceding the application date to complete peer review forms.

(d) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination administered uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, experience, and professionalism in adoption law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343); amended and effective May 20, 2016 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by the Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 25, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-28.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have continuous and substantial involvement in the field of adoption law. The applicant must have devoted at least 40 percent of the applicant's practice to adoption law and met the minimum case requirements below.

Service as a guardian ad litem, standing alone, is not substantial involvement. All qualified adoption placements and contested adoption proceedings must conclude within the required 5-year period, except that an adoption appeal may qualify for consideration after submission of a written brief to the appellate court.

(1) *Adoption Placements.* The applicant must have either presided over as a judge or general magistrate, or handled as an advocate, a minimum of 30 adoption placements in which the applicant was substantially involved as defined in this subchapter. All placements must have involved the placement of a minor child with an adoptive family who is not related to the child within the third degree of consanguinity or is not the minor child's stepparent. The applicant may include no more than 3 cases where substantial involvement is demonstrated on legal work accomplished for an adoption plan that did not result in adoptive placement.

(A) The applicant must have appeared before the court as the adoption entity, as defined in the Florida Adoption Act, on behalf of the adoptive parents or as the lawyer for the adoption entity and been responsible for at least 50 percent of the legal decisions concerning the minor child's adoption placement, termination of the biological and legal parents' parental rights, and finalization of the adoption in each of the 30 adoption placements.

(B) Adoption placements and legal proceedings simultaneously undertaken with respect to the same child or sibling group is 1 adoption placement.

(C) Adoption placements will not include the:

(i) domestication of intercountry adoptions;

(ii) termination of parental rights under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes; or

(iii) finalization of an adoption where the applicant was not substantially involved in the placement of the child as set forth in this subchapter or the termination of parental rights under the Florida Adoption Act.

(2) *Contested Adoption Proceedings or Adoption Appeals.* The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement as defined in this subdivision in a minimum of 10 contested adoption proceedings or adoption appeals within the 5 years immediately preceding the application date if the applicant does not meet the minimum requirement of 30 adoption placements. The applicant must demonstrate responsibility for at least 50 percent of the legal work in preparing and presenting the case in each of these 10 contested adoption proceedings or adoption appeals and meet the following requirements.

(A) *Contested Adoption Proceedings.* A contested adoption proceedings is a contested proceeding under the Florida Adoption Act, including a proceeding to terminate parental rights in furtherance of adoption, an adoption proceeding, or an intervention. An eligible contested adoption includes, but is not limited to, a private adoption placement, a contested stepparent or relative adoption, or a proceeding in which the court grants or denies intervention includes:

(i) includes an adversarial evidentiary hearing or trial in which the applicant has substantial involvement as defined in this subdivision, and the ultimate issues are submitted to the trier of fact for final resolution;

(ii) includes an adversarial evidentiary hearing or trial in which the applicant has substantial involvement as defined in this subdivision, and the ultimate issues are resolved with a mediator or by the parties before the issues are submitted to the trier of fact for final resolution; or

(iii) involves extraordinary, complex contested litigation in which the applicant has substantial involvement, and the ultimate issues are resolved with a mediator or by the parties prior to an adversarial evidentiary hearing or trial.

(B) Adoption Appeal. An adoption appeal is any appeal arising under the Florida Adoption Act, whether the issue was presented pre- or post-finalization of the adoption. An adoption appeal is only eligible for consideration when the applicant establishes that the applicant was responsible for a majority of the legal decisions in each matter, including the filing of principal briefs in an appellate case or the filing of petitions or responses in extraordinary writ cases. In all cases, the applicant must specifically identify any co-counsel and demonstrate that the applicant's level of participation was substantial and direct. In support of the application requesting credit for an adoption appeal, the applicant must submit each brief and appropriately redact all identifying information regarding birth and adoptive families. The applicant must have been responsible for all or at least 50 percent of the legal decisions in each case in each of these 10 contested adoption appeals. A brief, including an amicus brief, written for different appellate levels (i.e. district court, Supreme Court of Florida and federal courts) may be submitted as a separate appellate case handled by the applicant, but cases arising from a single proceeding may not be counted more than twice. Briefs written for different appellate levels must be substantially different in order to be counted twice.

(3) *Related Adoption Proceedings.* The applicant must have advocated for a party or participant in a related adoption proceeding and demonstrate that the applicant was substantially involved as defined in this subchapter. No more than 3 related adoption proceedings will be counted.

(A) The applicant must have been responsible for at least 50 percent of the legal work in the related adoption proceeding.

(B) Related adoption proceedings and other legal proceedings simultaneously undertaken with respect to the same child or sibling group will be deemed collectively as 1 adoption placement or related adoption proceeding.

(4) *Application Requirements.* The applicant meets the substantial involvement requirements by submitting proof of 30 adoption placements or 10 contested adoption proceedings or appeals as required in the adoption law certification standards; or the applicant may submit an application detailing his or her substantial involvement in a combination of adoption placements and contested adoption proceedings/appeals to be considered by the committee as follows:

(A) Each adoption placement, contested adoption proceeding, or appeal will be assigned points as set forth below. The applicant must submit a minimum of 60 points for review. Points will be awarded as follows:

(i) Each adoption placement as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 2 points.

(ii) Each contested adoption proceeding as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 6 points.

(iii) Each adoption appeal as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 6 points.

(iv) Each related adoption proceeding as defined in this subdivision will be assigned 6 points.

(B) The point system in this subdivision will be used solely to determine whether an applicant has met the minimum combination number of cases.

(C) Cases that involve the same child or sibling group will not be considered for more than 1 adoption placement,

contested proceeding, or appeal (adoption matter). For good cause shown, the applicant may count cases as 2 adoption matters if the applicant meets the separate substantial involvement requirements for each event. No case involving the same child or sibling group will be counted as more than 2 adoption matters.

(5) *Waiver*. The adoption law certification committee may waive the minimum number of cases for an applicant who has been continuously board certified in adoption law under these standards for a period of 14 years or more.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in the field of adoption law since the last application of certification or recertification.

(c) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References*. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 3 lawyers, at least 2 of which must be members of The Florida Bar with their principal office located in the state of Florida who neither are relatives nor current associates or partners, to complete peer review forms. These lawyers must be involved in adoption law and familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References*. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 2 judges before whom the applicant has appeared on adoption matters within the 2-year period immediately preceding the application date to complete peer review forms.

New subchapter added June 11, 2009, (SC08-1981), (11 So.3d 343); amended and effective May 20, 2016 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective March 25, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**6-29. STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN JUVENILE
LAW
RULE 6-29.1 GENERALLY**

A lawyer who is an active member in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meets the standards prescribed below may be issued a certificate identifying the lawyer as “Board Certified in Juvenile Law.” The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who practice juvenile law and have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified to the public as board certified in juvenile law.

New subchapter added May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (SC14-2107).

RULE 6-29.2 DEFINITIONS AND COMMITTEE

(a) Juvenile Law. “Juvenile law” is the area of law that inherently and directly impacts children. It includes, but is not limited to, dependency, delinquency, and termination of parental rights matters. It does not include adoption matters or matters arising in the context of family law proceedings not consolidated with dependency or termination of parental rights matters.

(b) Trial. A “trial” is defined as substantially preparing a case for court, offering testimony or evidence, or cross-examination and submission of a case to the trier of fact for determination of the matter in an adversarial proceeding before a trier of fact. An applicant receives credit for 1 trial per case number, except that the applicant receives credit for:

(1) 2 trials for both dependency and termination of parental rights actions filed under a single case number; and

(2) 1 trial in a single consolidated dependency proceeding with multiple case numbers corresponding to related children.

(c) Appellate proceeding. An “appellate proceeding” is an action in a state or federal court seeking review of a decision of a lower tribunal.

(d) Juvenile Law Certification Committee. At least 3 members of the juvenile law certification committee must practice dependency law. At least 3 members of the juvenile law certification committee must practice delinquency law.

New subchapter added May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (SC14-2107); amended and effective July 19, 2019 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors. Amended and effective December 2, 2022 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-29.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have been substantially engaged in the practice of law for at least 5 years immediately preceding the application date by providing examples of service as the lead advocate on behalf of a governmental entity, child, parent, guardian, foster parent, or child’s relative with standing to litigate in a minimum of 10 fully adjudicated trials or appellate proceedings arising from petitions for dependency, termination of parental rights, or delinquency.

The juvenile law certification committee may substitute other experience in juvenile law for trials or appellate proceedings for good cause shown. This experience may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) handling school issues, including disciplinary issues and educational planning matters, participating in placement determinations, and the development of treatment and alternative plans;
- (2) dealing with matters relating to governmental benefits;
- (3) advocacy after termination of parental rights;

- (4) advocacy before the Florida Department of Children and Families or other agencies;
- (5) advocacy in juvenile delinquency matters other than trial or appellate proceedings;
- (6) representation at administrative proceedings; and
- (7) resolving health care matters.

(b) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 6 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners nor who practice in the same governmental entity as the applicant to complete peer review forms. At least 4 of the references must be members of The Florida Bar. Individuals serving as references must have experience in juvenile law and be sufficiently familiar with the applicant to attest to the applicant's special competence in juvenile law, as well as the applicant's character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism in the practice of law. The board of legal specialization and education and the juvenile law certification committee may authorize references from nonlawyers.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the name and address of 1 judge before whom the applicant has appeared in a juvenile law matter within the 5-year period immediately preceding application to complete a peer review form.

(c) Education. The applicant must demonstrate completion of 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in juvenile law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the juvenile law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(d) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination administered uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, proficiency, experience, and professionalism in juvenile

law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

New subchapter added May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (SC14-2107); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-29.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding application.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in juvenile law throughout the period since the last date of certification or recertification. The applicant must have had sole or primary responsibility in at least 10 trials or appellate actions involving juvenile law. When primary responsibility is used to meet this requirement, the applicant must specifically identify any co-counsel and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the juvenile law certification committee that the applicant's level of participation was substantial and direct. The juvenile law certification committee may substitute other experience for any portion of the trials or appellate proceedings for good cause shown. This experience may include, but is not limited to, the matters set forth in the substantial involvement requirement for initial certification. Compliance with this provision constitutes a prima facie showing of compliance with the requirements of rule 6-29.4(a).

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in juvenile law certification. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the juvenile law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(c) Peer Review.

(1) *Lawyer References.* The applicant must submit the names and address of at least 4 lawyers who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners nor who practice in the same

governmental entity as the applicant to complete peer review forms. These lawyers must have experience in juvenile law and be familiar with the applicant's practice.

(2) *Judicial References.* The applicant must submit the name and address of at least 1 judge before whom the applicant has appeared within the last 5 years to complete a peer review forms.

New subchapter added May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (SC14-2107); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-30 STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN CONDOMINIUM AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT LAW RULE 6-30.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is an active member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued a certificate identifying the lawyer as "Board Certified in Condominium and Planned Development Law." The purpose of the standards is to identify lawyers who:

(a) practice law in the development of common interest real property, and the formation, representation, and regulation of community associations;

(b) have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency; and

(c) have the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism to be identified to the public as board certified in condominium and planned development law.

New subchapter added January 21, 2016; effective March 21, 2016; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-30.2 DEFINITIONS AND COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

(a) **Community Association and Planned Development.** A "community association" is a corporation for profit or not-for-profit

that is engaged in the management and operation of common interest real property, which typically includes:

- (1) associations for condominiums, homeowners, property owners, and mobile homes;
- (2) associations governing communities or properties which may be related to residential, commercial, other non-residential communities or properties;
- (3) cooperatives;
- (4) recreational organizations such as golf or tennis clubs; and
- (5) voluntary organizations that are incorporated or not incorporated.

A “planned development” is real property in Florida that consists of or will consist of separately owned areas, lots, parcels, units, or interests together with common or shared elements or interests in real property, or where the separately owned areas, lots, parcels, units, or interests are subject to common restrictive covenants or are governed by a community association.

(b) Condominium and Planned Development Law.

“Condominium and planned development law” is the practice of law that involves:

- (1) serving as counsel to community associations, property owners, community association members, sellers, purchasers, developers, lenders, governmental agencies, and investors in matters related to community associations and planned developments;
- (2) drafting governing documents or their amendments, and preparing filings with governmental agencies that regulate community associations or planned developments;
- (3) serving in or for governmental agencies which regulate community associations or planned developments;

(4) representing parties in construction lien and defect claims, collection of assessment actions, governing document and community association statutory enforcement and dispute actions, and other litigation, arbitration, and mediation in matters relating to community associations or planned developments; and

(5) planning, development, construction, and financing of condominium or planned development communities.

(c) Condominium and Planned Development Law Certification Committee. The condominium and planned development law certification committee must be composed of the following:

(1) at least one-third of the members must be lawyers whose practice focuses on the representation of community association members or community associations controlled by unit or parcel owners other than the developers of those community associations; and

(2) at least one-third of the members must be lawyers whose practice focuses on the representation of developers or others structuring and creating condominium and planned developments.

The board of legal specialization and education will appoint an eligible lawyer if there is no eligible lawyer with the required focus practice area willing to serve.

New subchapter added January 21, 2016; effective March 21, 2016; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-30.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must have been engaged in the practice of condominium and planned development law for at least 5 years immediately preceding the application. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the practice of law, of which at least 40 percent has been spent in active participation in condominium and planned development law during at least 3 of the 5 years immediately

preceding the application date by providing examples of at least 20 substantive tasks or services performed on behalf of, or in connection with, community associations and planned developments, such as:

(1) drafting, reviewing, interpreting, or revising development and governing documents, title instruments and reports, title insurance policies, contracts for sale and purchase, and statutory and administrative laws, rules, and provisions;

(2) drafting financing instruments for developers, lenders, investors, or community associations;

(3) planning and drafting project legal structures and entities;

(4) dealing with development funds and associated development documents;

(5) drafting other project related documents;

(6) serving as an arbitrator or counsel for a party in an arbitration;

(7) serving as a mediator or counsel for a party in a mediation;

(8) drafting opinion letters;

(9) serving as legal counsel at a trial, on appeal, or in administrative hearings;

(10) representing owners, purchasers, developers, lenders, investors, community associations, governmental agencies, or political subdivisions in matters relating to condominium and planned development law; or

(11) any other activity deemed appropriate by the condominium and planned development law certification committee.

The applicant must also describe, through examples or narrative, the applicant's law practice of representing community associations, developers, lenders, investors, or owners in matters involving condominium and planned development law during the 5-year period preceding the application date. The examples or narrative must include the approximate number and type of clients the applicant has represented during the 5-year period. Consideration will be given to applicants who have served as in-house counsel or who have been employed by governmental agencies. The applicant must demonstrate compliance with this requirement through a form approved by the condo and planned development law committee, but written or oral supplementation may be required.

(b) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 individuals who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. At least 4 of the 5 references must be lawyers or judges and at least 3 of the lawyer references must be members of The Florida Bar.

(c) Education. The applicant must demonstrate completion of 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in condominium and planned development law during the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application. Accreditation of educational hours is subject to policies established by the condominium and planned development law certification committee or the board of legal specialization and education.

(d) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination administered uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, proficiency, and experience in condominium and planned development law to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

New subchapter added January 21, 2016; effective March 21, 2016; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-30.4 RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in condominium and planned development law throughout the period since the last date of certification or recertification. The demonstration of substantial involvement must show that condominium and planned development law comprises at least 40 percent of the applicant's practice. The applicant must demonstrate continued compliance with the requirements for substantial involvement in the minimum standards for initial certification.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 75 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in condominium and planned development law.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of at least 3 individuals who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners to complete peer review forms. At least 2 of the 3 references must be lawyers or judges, and at least 1 must be a member of The Florida Bar.

New subchapter added January 21, 2016; effective March 21, 2016; amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

6-31 STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION AND ARBITRATION RULE 6-31.1 GENERALLY

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar, eligible to practice law in Florida, and meets the standards prescribed below may be issued a certificate identifying the lawyer as "Board Certified in International Litigation and Arbitration." The purpose of the standards is to identify those lawyers who have the special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as the character, ethics, and reputation for professionalism, to be properly identified

to the public as board certified in international litigation and arbitration.

New subchapter added November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1961).

RULE 6-31.2 DEFINITIONS

(a) International Litigation and Arbitration. “International litigation and arbitration” is the practice of 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. The term “international litigation and arbitration” includes foreign and comparative law.

(b) Practice of Law. Practice of law that otherwise satisfies these requirements but that is on a part-time basis will satisfy the requirement if the balance of the applicant’s qualifying activity is spent as a teacher of international litigation and arbitration subjects in an accredited law school.

(c) International Litigation and Arbitration Certification Committee. The international litigation and arbitration certification committee consists of 9 members. The international litigation and arbitration committee members are appointed according to the criteria in the general rule for certification committees elsewhere in this chapter.

New subchapter added November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1961); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-31.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(a) Minimum Period of Practice. The applicant must have engaged in the practice of law either in the United States or abroad and must have been a member in good standing and eligible to practice law in their jurisdiction not less than 5 years as of the application date. The years of law practice need not be consecutive.

Receipt of an LL.M degree in international law, as defined in that certification area or in another field approved by the international litigation and arbitration certification committee substitutes for 1 year of the practice of law requirement, but not the 5-year bar membership requirement, specified in this subdivision. Practice of law that otherwise satisfies these requirements but that is on a part-time basis will satisfy the requirement if the balance of the applicant's qualifying activity is spent as a teacher of international litigation and arbitration subjects in an accredited law school.

(b) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of international litigation or arbitration during each of the 3 years immediately preceding the application date. The applicant must have substantial involvement in contested international litigation and arbitration cases sufficient to demonstrate special competence as an international litigation and arbitration lawyer. Substantial involvement includes active participation in client interviewing, counseling, investigating, preparation of pleadings and arbitration submissions, participation in discovery, taking of testimony, presentation of evidence, negotiation of settlement, drafting and preparation of settlement agreements, argument and trial of international cases in court or before an arbitral panel, or service as an arbitrator. Time devoted to lecturing on or writing about international litigation and arbitration may be included for purposes of this section.

(c) Minimum Number of Matters. The applicant must have had substantial involvement in a minimum of 16 contested international litigation and arbitration matters during the 8-year period immediately preceding application. These matters must have proceeded at least to the filing of a complaint or similar proceeding, statement of claim, or demand for arbitration and involve substantial legal or factual issues. At least 5 of the 16 matters must have been submitted to the trier of fact for resolution of 1 or more contested factual issues through the presentation of live testimony or other evidence at a hearing. The trier of fact includes any judge or jury of a court of general jurisdiction, an arbitration panel, administrative agency, bankruptcy court, or other similar body.

“Submission to the trier of fact” requires completion of the case in chief of the plaintiff, petitioner, or claimant or the actual submission of a motion for summary judgment or the response to that motion. The international litigation and arbitration certification committee may consider involvement in protracted adversary proceedings to satisfy any of these requirements. A “protracted adversary proceeding” is an international litigation and arbitration matter that is so time consuming it precludes the applicant from meeting the requirements of this subdivision.

In order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this section, the following criteria will be applicable:

(1) summary judgments may not count for more than 3 of the 5 contested matters submitted to the trier of fact;

(2) submission to the trier of fact, other than as to summary judgment, requires completion of the case in chief of the plaintiff, petitioner, or claimant, or the equivalent in arbitration;

(3) each preliminary injunction or other evidentiary hearing will count as 1 of the 5 matters submitted to the trier of fact; and

(4) each matter in which the applicant supervises an associate will qualify the matter as 1 of the 16, but not as 1 of the 5 matters submitted to the trier of fact.

(d) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in international litigation and arbitration during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(e) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges who are neither relatives nor current associates or partners of the applicant to complete peer review forms.

(f) Examination. The applicant must pass an examination administered uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, and proficiency in international litigation and

arbitration to justify the representation of special competence to the legal profession and the public.

New subchapter added November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1961); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

RULE 6-31.4 INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION AND ARBITRATION RECERTIFICATION

The applicant must satisfy the following requirements for recertification during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application date.

(a) Substantial Involvement. The applicant must demonstrate continuous and substantial involvement in the practice of international litigation and arbitration since the last date of certification or recertification in a minimum of 10 contested international litigation and arbitration matters during the 5-year period immediately preceding reapplication. These matters must have proceeded at least to the filing of a complaint or similar pleading, statement of claim, or demand for arbitration, and involve substantial legal or factual issues. At least 3 of the 10 matters must have been submitted to the trier of fact for resolution of 1 or more contested factual issues through the presentation of live testimony or other evidence at a hearing. The trier of fact includes any judge or jury of a court of general jurisdiction, an arbitration panel, administrative agency, bankruptcy court, or other similar body. “Submission to the trier of fact” requires completion of the case in chief of the plaintiff, petitioner, or claimant, or the actual submission of a motion for summary judgement or response to that motion. The international litigation and arbitration certification committee may consider involvement in protracted adversary proceedings to satisfy any of these requirements for good cause shown. A “protracted adversary proceeding” is an international litigation and arbitration matter that is so time consuming it precludes the applicant from meeting the requirements of this subdivision.

The applicant must demonstrate compliance on a form approved by the committee using the following criteria:

(1) summary judgments may not count as more than 1 of the 3 matters submitted to the trier of fact;

(2) submission to the trier of fact, other than as to summary judgment, requires completion of the case in chief of the plaintiff, petitioner, or claimant, or the equivalent in arbitration;

(3) each preliminary injunction or other evidentiary hearing will count as 1 of the 3 matters submitted to the trier of fact; and

(4) each matter in which the applicant supervises an associate will qualify as 1 of the 10, but not as 1 of the 3, matters submitted to the trier of fact.

(b) Education. The applicant must complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in international litigation and arbitration since the filing of the last application for certification.

(c) Peer Review. The applicant must submit the names and addresses of 5 lawyers or judges to complete peer review forms who are familiar with the applicant's practice, excluding individuals who currently are employed by the same employer as the applicant.

New subchapter added November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (SC16-1961); amended and effective December 4, 2020 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.