

Q. When a lawyer has been "Certified" by the Supreme Court of New Jersey to be a Civil Trial Attorney, what does that mean?"

A. First of all, the Supreme Court of New Jersey is the highest court in the State of New Jersey. Applications are submitted by many attorneys every year to become "certified" as Civil Trial Attorneys by the Supreme Court. However, the "certified" designation is only granted by the Supreme Court to attorneys who are able to demonstrate sufficient levels of experience, education, knowledge and skill in civil trial practice. The New Jersey Supreme Court, through its Board on Attorney Certification, designates only those lawyers who are able to meet the standards set by the Board and approved by the Court.

Once a lawyer is has become Certified by the Supreme Court as a Civil Trial Attorney, the Supreme Court allows the attorney to use the seal below to identify this designation to the public.



Q. What are the requirements for Board certification?

A. An attorney must meet the following requirements to become Board Certified:

- Must be a member in good standing of the New Jersey bar for at least 5 years
- Must show a substantial involvement in preparation of litigated matters and demonstrate primary responsibility for a specific number of complete trials in New Jersey Superior Court
- Must demonstrate an unblemished reputation by submitting a list of attorneys and judges who will attest to the applicant's character and ability
- Must pass a rigorous written examination covering various aspects of trial practice
- In the 3 years prior to filing an application, must have taken continuing a required number of legal education courses

Q. Why does New Jersey have a program for Certification in trial law?

A. The certification program helps consumers find attorneys who have a recognized level of competence in specialized fields of the law. Certification also helps lawyers by giving them a way to make their experience known to the public and to other lawyers.

Q. How many attorneys are certified in New Jersey?

A. About 1% of all attorneys in New Jersey are Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as Certified Civil Trial Attorneys.

Q. How does the consumer know if an attorney is Board certified?

A. Although many practicing trial attorneys now advertise in newspapers, on television and in the Yellow Pages, only attorneys certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court are entitled to use the designation "Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Civil Trial Attorney" on their letterhead, business cards, Yellow Pages listings or in other advertisements. Also, certified attorneys are the only attorneys allowed to use the symbol listed above.