

# Supreme Court

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
400 ROYAL STREET  
SUITE 1190

New Orleans  
70130-8101

CHIEF JUSTICE  
BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON  
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR  
SANDRA A. VUJNOVICH

TELEPHONE (504) 310-2550  
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September 28, 2017

Ms. Melanie C. Lockett  
Lowe, Stein, Hoffman, Allweiss & Hauver  
701 Poydras St., Suite 3600  
New Orleans, LA 70139


Re: Approval of Amendments to Plan of Legal Specialization

Dear Ms. Lockett:

The Louisiana Supreme Court recently met to discuss the Board of Legal Specialization's (the "Board") request for approval of the amendment to the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal of Specialization to establish the new Health Law specialty (as approved by the LSBA's House of Delegates on January 21, 2017).

This letter confirms the Court's approval of the Board's requested amendment, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Sincerely,



Bernette Joshua Johnson  
Chief Justice

BJJ/lmr

Attachment

S/LAVERNE/BARADM/LETTERS/LOCKETT.DOC

cc: Ms. Mary Ann Wegmann  
Ms. Loretta Larsen



**RESOLUTION OF THE  
LOUISIANA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION  
HEALTH LAW SPECIALTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization is empowered under Section 3.1(B) of the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization to make recommendations to the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association with respect to areas of specialty and certification in fields of law;

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization has received 80 requests from members of the bar practicing in the field of health law in the State of Louisiana indicating their interest and support in the establishment of a specialty and certification in health law. Many of these practitioners also indicated their willingness to serve as a member of the initial Advisory Commission to the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization in the area of Health Law.

**WHEREAS**, at a meeting held on December 12, 2016, it was unanimously agreed that the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization make its recommendation that it would be appropriate to certify those attorneys practicing in the field of health law for the good of the Louisiana State Bar Association and for the good of the public utilizing those services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization does hereby resolve that there should be an additional area of specialty and certification for those attorneys practicing in the field of health law.

**FURTHER**, be it resolved that this Resolution be submitted to the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association for approval.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Kevin Stelly, Chair  
Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization

December 12, 2016  
New Orleans, Louisiana

APPROVED  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES & BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
JANUARY 21, 2017  
BATON ROUGE, LA



**RESOLUTION OF THE  
LOUISIANA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION  
HEALTH LAW STANDARDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization empowered under Section 3.1(C) of the Louisiana State Bar Association Plan of Legal Specialization to make recommendations to the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association with respect to reasonable and non-discriminatory standards concerning education, experience, proficiency and other relevant matters in defined and designated fields of law so certificates of special competence may be granted;

**WHEREAS**, a new specialty and certification in health law has been approved by the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association;

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on November 3, 2016 for the purpose of providing an opportunity for board certified specialists and members of the bar to comment on the proposed standards for the health law specialty and certification; and

**WHEREAS**, at a meeting of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization held on December 12, 2016, it was unanimously agreed that a recommendation be made to the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association to adopt the proposed standards for health law a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization does hereby resolve that the proposed standards for Health Law be adopted and approved.

**FURTHER**, be it resolved that this Resolution be submitted to the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. Kevin Stelly, Chair  
Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization

December 12, 2016  
New Orleans, Louisiana

APPROVED  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES & BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
JANUARY 21, 2017  
BATON ROUGE, LA



## LOUISIANA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION HEALTH LAW STANDARDS

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (the "Board") by the Supreme Court of Louisiana and on the recommendation of the Health Law Advisory Commission (the "Advisory Commission") the Board promulgates the following standards and requirements for Board certification in health law in accordance with the Plan of Legal Specialization (the "Plan") and the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (the "Rules").

### Section I. DEFINITIONS

- A. The practice of law means full-time legal work performed for the purpose of rendering legal advice or legal representation to the general public, private employers or governmental agencies.
- B. Full-time shall be defined as working a minimum of 35 hours per week.
- C. Health Law is the practice of law dealing with federal, state and local law, rules, regulations, and other authorities regarding operational, regulatory, and transactional legal issues between and among health care providers, patients, payors, vendors, governmental regulators and others involved in the delivery and financing of health care services.
- D. Certification as a specialist shall be effective the date the Board authorizes recognition and shall remain effective for five (5) years from January 1 of the year of recognition.

### Section II. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Application

1. Each applicant shall be an active member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association.
2. Each applicant shall have a minimum of five (5) years of continuous actual practice of law on a full time basis preceding the year of application.
3. Each applicant shall certify under oath that during four (4) out of five (5) years immediately preceding the year of application, such applicant has been as an attorney practicing in the State of Louisiana and that he or she devoted a minimum of 35% of a full time work schedule in the practice of law annually in the field of health law, as defined in Section I.C.
4. The Advisory Commission must receive on behalf of an applicant, on a form furnished by the Board, a minimum of five (5) reference statements from practicing attorneys who can attest to the applicant's competence in the specialty field of health law. Of the five (5) references, at least one (1) must be from a Board Certified Health Law Specialist. These submissions shall be subject to the limitations as outlined in Section 8.4 of the Rules.

5. Each applicant shall consent to a confidential inquiry by the Board and/or the Advisory Commission, directed to all persons who serve as references for the applicant, and to other persons regarding the applicant's competence and qualifications to be recognized as a Health Law specialist. This inquiry and review shall consider information furnished by references and other information that the Advisory Commission deems relevant to whether the applicant has sufficient competence and proficiency handling the usual matters of the specialty field. This information may include the applicant's work product, problem analysis, statement of issues and analysis, ethics, reputation, professionalism or such other criteria which the Advisory Commission deems appropriate to take into account prior to making its recommendations.
6. Each applicant must comply with the rules and regulations established by the Board as they relate to release of disciplinary action information.
7. Each applicant is required to obtain by December 31 of the year of application a minimum of 15 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) in the field of health law. All CLE credits of an applicant must be approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") and the Advisory Commission. CLE earned in prior years may not be used to satisfy the 15 hour requirement within the year of application. An applicant will not qualify for the specialization CLE exemption in the year of application.
8. Each applicant must maintain professional liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000. The policy must be offered by a company reasonably acceptable to the Board. Evidence of insurance shall be provided to the Advisory Commission with the application.
9. Each applicant must take and 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.
10. Pay all fees required by the Rules.

**B. Maintenance**

Each Board Certified Health Law Specialist must satisfy the following criteria to maintain their specialization certification:

1. Be an active member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association.
2. Certify under oath, on a form provided by the Board that he or she engages in the actual practice of law on a full time basis.
3. Certify under oath, on a form provided by the Board, that he or she is an attorney practicing in the state of Louisiana and that he or she has devoted a minimum of 35% of a full time work schedule in the practice of law annually in the field of health law, as defined in Section I.C herein.
4. During each year of certification, must attend a minimum of 15 hours of approved health law continuing legal education programs which comply with Section III below and the Supreme Court of Louisiana Rules for Continuing Legal Education. Up to eight (8) hours of approved health law specialization CLE earned in excess of the 15 hour minimum required per year will be permitted to carry forward to the subsequent year, but may not be carried forward from the application year.

5. Maintain professional liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000, unless waived for good cause by the Board. The policy must be offered by a company reasonably acceptable to the Board. Proof of insurance shall be provided annually with payment of the annual dues and upon request.
6. Pay all fees required by the Rules.

C. Recertification

1. Recertification as a Board Certified Health Law Specialist shall be required every five (5) years from the date of certification or recertification, as the case may be.
2. Each Board Certified Health Law Specialist shall present an application every five (5) years, on a form furnished by the Board, certifying that he or she has met the requirements of Section II.B. above.

Section III. STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A. Program Development and Presentation

1. The program should contribute to the professional competence of a Board Certified Health Law Specialist in the area of health law and should be open for attendance by all such attorneys.
2. Programs should be developed by individual(s) qualified in the subject matter.
3. Program content should be current and 50% or more of the program must be related to health law subjects. No specialization continuing legal education credit will be awarded for attending a program which does not satisfy the 50% requirement.
4. Participants should be informed in advance of objectives, prerequisites, experience level, content, advance preparation (if required), and teaching methods.
5. Instructors or discussion leaders should be qualified with respect to program content and teaching method used.
6. Program sponsors should encourage participation only by individuals with appropriate education and/or experience.
7. The program sponsor must maintain registration and/or attendance records and such other records as may be necessary to substantiate compliance of the program with the above criteria.

B. Programs Which Qualify

1. General Rule

Continuing legal education ("CLE") programs must be approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) before approval can be granted by the Advisory Commission. The overriding consideration in determining if a specific program qualifies as acceptable continuing legal education is that it be a formal program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competence of an attorney who specializes in the field of health law.

2. Program Approval

Programs shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Advisory Commission provided the program meets the general standards set forth in Section III.A and B.1.

No credit shall be awarded for firm meetings or "in house" CLE programs.

**Section IV. OTHER METHODS OF EARNING SPECIALIZATION CLE CREDIT**

A. General Rules

1. Any other method of earning specialization CLE credit must be approved by MCLE before approval can be granted by the Advisory Commission, who shall then approve each request on a case-by-case basis.
2. All credit earned shall be calculated by MCLE in accordance with the Supreme Court of Louisiana Rules for Continuing Legal Education.
3. All requests for CLE credit shall be submitted to MCLE and the Advisory Commission within a reasonable period of time but no later than January 31 of the calendar year following the activity for which CLE credit is being sought.

B. Teaching

1. CLE credit may be awarded for teaching an approved CLE program pertinent to the specialization subject matter. If an individual teaches at a program and attends the balance of the program, then he or she shall receive credit for that portion of the program he or she did not teach in accordance with the Supreme Court of Louisiana Rules for Continuing Legal Education. No credit will be given for repetitious presentations of a program.
2. Teaching of academic courses in health law in a law school or other graduate level program presented by a recognized professional educational association may earn CLE credit.
3. CLE credit may be awarded for teaching a health law session at any seminar, provided the presentation meets all criteria contained in Section III.A. and B., other than Section III.A.3.

C. Writing

CLE credit may be awarded for writing of articles and other publications directed primarily to attorneys specializing in the health law field of law and published in professional periodicals and publications. Credit will not be awarded for authorship of articles and other publications until the writing has been published.

D. Louisiana State Law Institute Committee Meetings

CLE credit may be awarded for attendance at Louisiana State Law Institute Committee meetings pertinent to the field of health law.

E. Pro Bono

CLE credit may be awarded for providing uncompensated pro bono legal representation related to a health law matter, as defined in Section I.C. herein, to an indigent or near-indigent client or clients. CLE credit shall not

be granted until the representation has been assigned, completed and verified by the assigning organization as defined by and in accordance with the Supreme Court of Louisiana Rules for Continuing Legal Education.

**Section V. CREDIT HOURS GRANTED**

- A. Only credit hours or the equivalent (and not hours dedicated to preparation) will be counted.
- B. One (1) hour of continuing legal education credit will be awarded for each 60 minutes of instruction. Where the program is several periods of instruction with intervening breaks, the number of minutes of instruction is summed for the entire program for which the credit is claimed and then the total number of minutes is divided by 60.
- C. A participant who is not present for an entire program may claim credit only for the portion he or she attended.
- D. The credit hours assigned to a program by MCLE will be accepted by the Advisory Commission unless the hours are inaccurate under the standards for computing credit in accordance with the Supreme Court of Louisiana Rules for Continuing Legal Education.

**Section VI. COMPLIANCE**

**A. General Rule**

Specialization CLE credit hours will be computed on a calendar year basis and all attendance information for CLE credits earned shall be delivered to MCLE by January 31 of the following year.

**B. Notification**

The Board will notify each non-compliant Board Certified Health Law Specialist of the credit hours he or she has earned during the preceding calendar year. The specialist shall have 30 days from the date of notification to appeal the award of credit hours.

A specialization transcript may be obtained from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization website located at: <http://www.lasemcle.org/specialization>

**Section VII. ADMINISTRATION**

The Advisory Commission may delegate its responsibility to rule on all matters pertaining to health law CLE requirements to a committee consisting of at least three (3) Advisory Commission members. Any such committee shall report to the Advisory Commission, and the Advisory Commission shall, at all times, retain the right to review, modify, or supersede the decisions of any such committee.