

State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice Certification
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What is Certification?

Certification is the highest level of recognition given by a legal organization for competency and experience within an area of law.

Who sponsors Certification Programs?

According to the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization, three approaches to certification exist. First, private organizations have developed ABA-accredited certification programs, such as the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Second, State Bar organizations have sponsored certification plans, such as Florida. Third, some states have state-sponsored plans to accredit private certifiers.

What areas are covered?

Many practice areas, both substantive, like real estate law, and procedural, like civil trial practice, already have obtained certification programs in many states. Florida's certification programs include: Admiralty & Maritime Law, Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law, Appellate Practice, Aviation Law, Business Litigation, City, County & Local Government Law, Civil Trial, Construction Law, Criminal Appellate, Criminal Trial, Elder Law, Health Law, Immigration & Nationality, International Law, Labor & Employment Law, Marital & Family Law, Real Estate, Tax Law, Wills, Trusts & Estates, and Workers' Compensation

What is State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice?

State and Federal Administrative and Government Practice includes 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 agency actions such as contracts, licenses, orders, permits, policies, or rules.

What states have similar proposals?

Only Texas, and theirs is focused solely on the Texas APA, although the broader concept of certification in state and federal administrative law and government practice the idea is moving forward in other states.

What should the ABA Administrative & Regulatory Practice Section do?

Create a task force to review the idea, advertise and write about it in the Section publications, and send comments on the proposal to The Florida Bar and the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization, as appropriate. Eventually, the Section could consider developing a certification in the Federal APA.