

Minutes of the Meeting
Legal Specialization Screening Committee
November 18, 2008

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, the Legal Specialization Screening Committee met in the Judicial Branch, Legal Services Conference Room at 100 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford, Connecticut, from approximately 10:04 a.m. to 10:32 a.m. Members in attendance were:

Attorney Salvatore C. DePiano, Chair
Attorney Maureen M. Murphy, Vice Chair
Attorney Francis J. Brady
Attorney Anthony M. Fitzgerald
Attorney Jeffrey N. Low

Also in attendance were Attorney Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Counsel, Legal Services, Judicial Branch and Attorney Denise K. Poncini, Counsel, Legal Services, Judicial Branch.

Agenda Items:

1. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2008. (Attorneys DePiano, Murphy, Brady and Low voted to approve the minutes; Attorney Fitzgerald abstained since he was not present at the January 30, 2008 meeting.)
2. The Committee considered the application of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification for renewal of its authority to certify lawyers as specialists in the fields of Civil Trial Practice and Criminal Law and upon proper motion voted unanimously to recommend (as noted in Appendix A) to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court that the applicant be recertified because it met all of the criteria in the rules and as developed by the Committee to evaluate whether entities should be approved as certifiers, subject to the condition that, if approved, the applicant shall be required to notify promptly the Legal Specialization Screening Committee of any material changes in its methodology for certifying lawyers as specialists during the term of its approval.

The Committee noted that the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification's application sought authority to certify lawyers as specialist in the fields of "Civil Trial Law" and "Criminal Trial law" but that pursuant to Rule 7.4A the applicable specialty areas for which the Board was recommended are Civil Trial Practice or Criminal Law. The Committee directed that upon approval by the Rules Committee, the Board should be notified that its authority to certify lawyers

as Specialists is specifically within the areas of Civil Trial Practice and Criminal Law as those fields of law are defined in the rule.

3. The Committee considered proposed revisions to the *Standards, Procedures and Rules* of the Connecticut Bar Association's Standing Committee on Workers' Compensation Certification Program submitted to the Committee by that Standing Committee. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed revisions and to inform the Rules Committee of its approval. Attorney Brady suggested, and all members agreed, that in the future, whenever an entity authorized to certify lawyers as specialists proposes material changes to its methodology for certifying lawyers as specialists, that entity shall be requested to address the Committee in person to explain the revisions that are being proposed.

4. The Committee considered the status report on the Connecticut Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Certification Program. The Committee concluded that no further action on such matter was necessary.

5. The Committee reviewed proposed revisions to its regulations and application prepared by counsel pursuant to the Committee's request. The Committee voted unanimously to adopt the revisions as set forth in Appendix B and to forward them to the Rules Committee for its review and approval.

6. The Committee discussed general concerns regarding the lack of information that is available about the Committee and its duties and responsibilities and agreed that it should pursue the various resources for disseminating information about itself that may be available through the Judicial Branch.

The Committee directed counsel to determine, each January, whether the terms of authority of any of the entities approved as certifiers of lawyers as specialists were due to expire that year and, if so, to notify the affected entity of such.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Del Ciampo
Counsel, Legal Services

Denise K. Poncini
Counsel, Legal Services