

Minutes of the Meeting
Legal Specialization Screening Committee
January 30, 2008

On Wednesday, January 30, 2008, the Legal Specialization Screening Committee, met in the Attorneys' Conference Room at the Supreme Court Building, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:38 a.m. Members in attendance were:

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

Attorney Anthony M. Fitzgerald was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Agenda

1. The Committee considered the application of the American Board of Certification for renewal of its authority to certify lawyers as specialists in the fields of Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Business Bankruptcy Law and for authority to certify lawyers as specialists in the field of Creditors' Rights Law. After a discussion of the application and of the transmittal letter from Dian Gilmore, Executive Director of the American Board of Certification, which accompanied the application, the Committee agreed that the applicant sought only to renew its previous authority in Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Business Bankruptcy Law. Upon proper motion the Committee

voted unanimously to recommend to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court that the applicant be recertified in the fields of Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Business Bankruptcy Law 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 prior authority of the applicant expired on September 24, 2006, and recommended that if approved by the Rules Committee, such approval should be for a period of five years retroactive to September 24, 2006. The Committee directed that if approved by the Rules Committee, the applicant shall be notified by Counsel that the Committee was concerned with the applicant's untimely filing of its application and that any future applications for renewal of the applicant's authority shall be made in a timely fashion or such applications may not be considered.

2. The Committee considered the application of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification (the parent organization of the National Board of Trial Advocacy) 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 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 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 prior authority of the National Board of Trial Advocacy expired on February 22, 2004, and recommended that if approved by the Rules Committee, such approval should be for a period of five years retroactive to February 22, 2004. The Committee directed that if approved by the Rules Committee, the applicant shall be notified by counsel that the Committee was concerned with the untimely filing of its application and that any further applications for renewal of the applicant's authority shall be made in a timely fashion or such application may not be considered. Additionally, the notice to the applicant shall include a statement that the applicant shall comply with Rule 7.4A of the Rules of Professional Conduct in representing that its authority to certify lawyers as specialists is specifically within the fields of Civil Trial Practice and Criminal Law as those fields are defined in the rule.

3. The Committee directed counsel to review the Committee's regulations and its application and to report to the Committee any updates to the regulations and the application that counsel deem necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Del Ciampo
Counsel, Legal Services