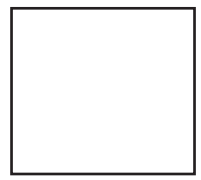## How Do You Chose The Best Attorney For Your Needs?

It's confusing trying to choose an attorney. You might have never needed an attorney before, so you ask a friend to refer you to someone, or look in the Yellow Pages where hundreds, or even thousands of attorneys are listed. But how do you choose one attorney over another and how can you be sure that you will choose the right attorney to handle your particular legal problem?

This brochure was written to help you make that choice. It will answer your questions about choosing a qualified and highly trained attorney with expertise in the area of law relating to your special problem.

Finding the right attorney is to your benefit and to the attorney's as well. That is why the Supreme Court of New Jersey has directed the Board on Attorney Certification to carry out the certification program in an effort to raise the level of competence of attorneys in this state. This program is designed to help you make an informed decision when seeking.
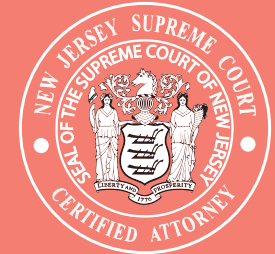
New Jersey Courts
Independence · Integrity · Fairness · Quality Service

STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

Why Should You Use A Certified Matrimonial Law Attorney?

NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT
SEAL OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY
CERTIFIED ATTORNEY

Q: What is a certified matrimonial law attorney?

Certified matrimonial law attorney is a designation granted by the New Jersey Supreme Court to attorneys who are able to demonstrate sufficient levels of experience, education, knowledge, and skill in matrimonial law practice. The Supreme Court, through its Board on Attorney Certification, designates only those lawyers who apply for certification and who are able to meet the standards set by the board and approved by the court.

Q: What does it mean when an attorney is certified?

A certified attorney is more than just an attorney who specializes in a particular area of law. A New Jersey attorney who is certified by the Supreme Court as a matrimonial law attorney must have:

- been a member in good standing of the New Jersey bar for more than 5 years,
- fulfilled ongoing continuing legal education requirements,
- demonstrated a substantial level of experience in matrimonial law
- been favorably evaluated by other attorneys and judges familiar with his or her work, and,
- taken and passed a written examination in matrimonial law.

Q: Why does New Jersey have a certification program?

The certification program helps the public find attorneys who have demonstrated proficiency in specialized fields of law. Certification helps lawyers by giving them a way to make their experience known to the public and to other lawyers. Certification also encourages the maintenance and improvement of attorney competence in specialized fields of law.

Q: In what areas of law does the New Jersey Supreme Court certify attorneys?

There are five specialty areas of practice that are approved for certification by the Supreme Court of New Jersey: civil trial law, criminal trial law, matrimonial law, workers' compensation law, and municipal court law.

Q: How many attorneys are certified in New Jersey?

As of December 2016, approximately 1,650 hold board certification out of roughly 75,000 active lawyers in New Jersey.

Q: How does the consumer know if an attorney is board certified?

Although many practicing matrimonial law 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 Matrimonial Law Attorney" on their letterhead, business cards, Yellow Pages listings, or in their advertisements.

Q: What if I have more questions or need to find out more about certification?

For more information regarding the certification program, contact:

**Board on Attorney Certification
P.O. Box 965
Trenton, NJ 08625-0965**

Phone: 609-815-2930

Email: BAC.Mailbox@njcourts.gov

www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/attcert.html