

Why Should You Use a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney?

“Certified Criminal Trial 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 criminal trial practice. There are approximately 55,000 attorneys practicing in New Jersey of which less than 250 have currently earned this designation.

In order to be designated a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney, the attorney must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member in good standing of the New Jersey bar for at least 5 years
- Take continuing legal education courses in the 3 years prior to applying for the designation
- Show a substantial involvement in preparation of litigated matters
- Demonstrate primary responsibility for a specific number of completed criminal trials in the New Jersey Superior Court
- Demonstrate an unblemished reputation by submitting a list of attorneys and judges who will attest to the attorney’s character and ability
- Pass a written examination covering various aspects of criminal trial practice

The Certification program pertaining to criminal law helps consumers find attorneys who have a recognized level of competence in criminal law. It also helps attorneys by giving them a way to make their experience known to the public and other attorneys.

Only attorneys certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court are entitled to use the designation “Certified Criminal Trial Attorney” on their letterhead, business cards, and advertisements.

Finding the right attorney is to your benefit which is why the New Jersey Supreme Court has directed the Board on Attorney Certification to implement the Certification program in an effort to raise the level of competence of trial attorneys in this State. The Certification program is designed to help you make an informed decision when seeking and selecting a trial lawyer.

Anyone who would like more information concerning the “Certified Criminal Trial Attorney” designation should visit www.judiciary.state.nj.us/supreme_doc/njbac or contact Board on Attorney Certification, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 970, 25 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0970 or call (609) 984-3077.