

Capable

Knowledgeable

**Recognizing
QUALIFIED**

Trial Representation

Proficient

Responsive

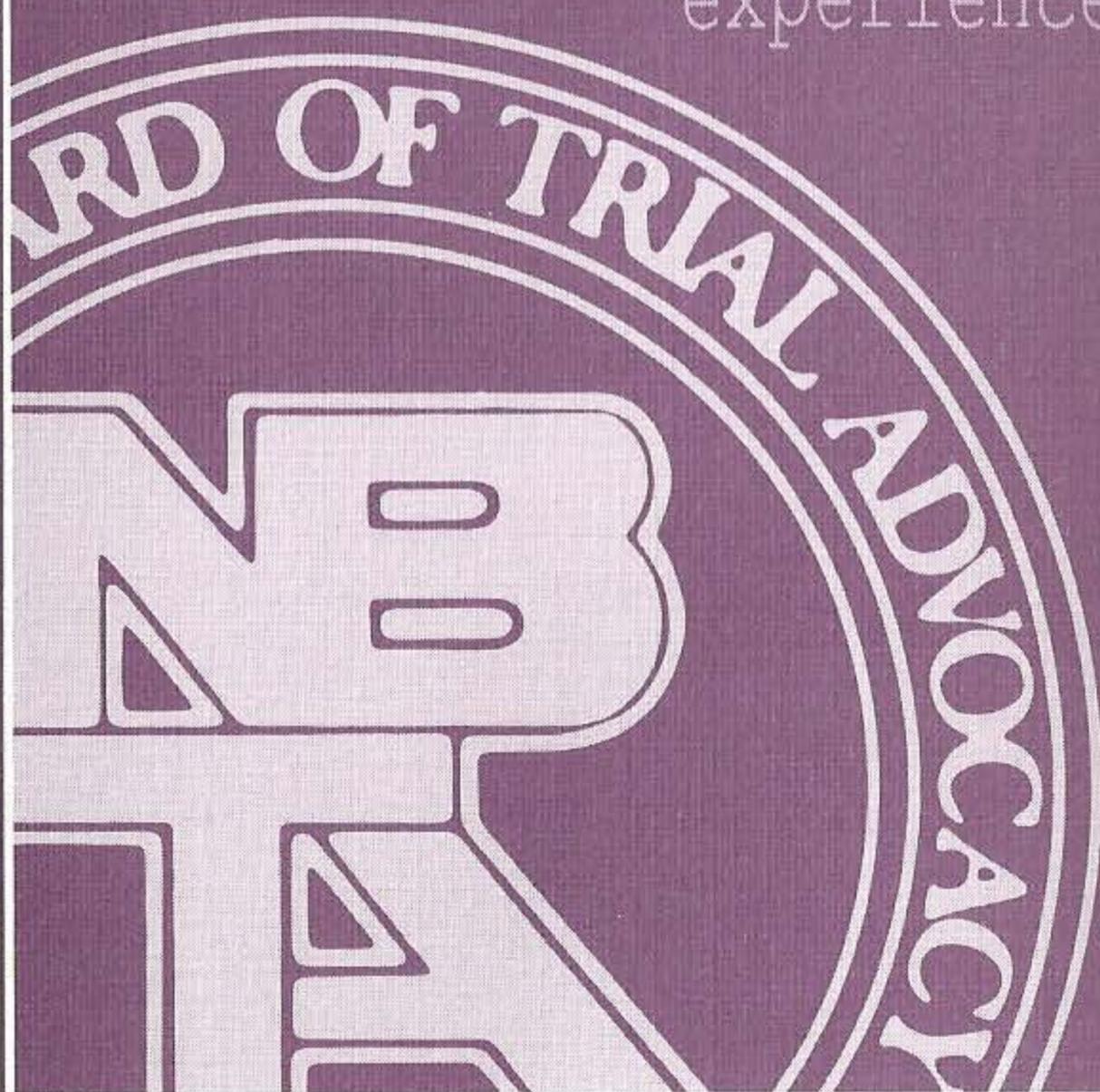
Competent

Accessible

... And how the
**National Board
of Trial Advocacy**
can help.

Skilled

experienced



What is the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA)?

The National Board of Trial Advocacy, or NBTA, was created in the public interest to *identify* lawyers who demonstrate that they are skilled, capable, ethical trial lawyers.

In the area of medical services, we are all familiar with board certification of physicians. When we see that a doctor is board certified, we know that doctor has been tested and examined by an *independent group* of physicians who have verified that the doctor is properly qualified and skilled in his or her field of practice.

In the world of legal services, there was nothing comparable to the system for board certifying doctors. The NBTA came into existence because a small group of highly-respected lawyers of nationwide reputation realized that most people who need a lawyer do not have any reliable way to identify which lawyers are truly capable and competent and which ones are not. The consumer of legal services needed something like the consumer of medical services – a system that publicly identified lawyers as “board certified.”

This small group of consumer-oriented lawyers decided to create an organization that would identify to the public ethical lawyers who were determined to be sufficiently skilled and experienced to be called Board Certified. In 1977, that is exactly what they did. Led by Theodore Koskoff, a brilliant and dedicated lawyer, the NBTA was founded.

Accredited by the American Bar Association, the National Board of Trial Advocacy maintains rigorous standards for the certification of civil, criminal, and family law trial advocates.

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed NBTA’s mission and purpose, finding that “Information about certification and specialties facilitates the consumer’s access to legal services and thus better serves the administration of justice.” The Supreme Court went on to say that the NBTA’s certification “both serves the public interest and encourages the development and

utilization of meritorious certification programs for attorneys”
Peel v. Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of Illinois 110 S.Ct. 2281 (1990).

Why should it matter to me whether my lawyer is a board certified trial lawyer? I want my case resolved without having to go to trial.

Most criminal cases and virtually 98% of civil cases never actually go to trial. This is because they are settled out of court.

What will motivate your opponent to want to settle with you out of court? If you are represented by an experienced trial lawyer who is making reasonable request for settlement on your behalf, the opposition knows it would probably be foolish to take the case to trial against an experienced, skilled litigator.

On the other hand, if the opposition knows something you don't know – that your lawyer has virtually no experience in court or has demonstrated a serious lack of skill in court – the opposition is much less likely to meet your settlement demands because they feel confident about their chances of success against your lawyer in court.

For these reasons, the most powerful advantage you can have is a lawyer who is ***known*** to be a highly-skilled trial lawyer. The odds are much greater that such a lawyer will be able to successfully negotiate an out-of-court settlement for you.

Litigation is often times compared to war. In litigation, as in war, the side with the greatest skill and experience is usually able to avoid conflict because the opposition is not willing to risk the consequences against such a capable opponent.

Therefore, as strange as it may seem at first, your chances of ***successfully*** resolving your case out of court are much better when you are represented by a skilled, experienced trial lawyer who is well-known and respected by the opposition. The NBTA simply makes these lawyers known to the public by identifying them as “Board Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.”

What do lawyers have to do to be “certified” by the organization?

1. They must submit a list of names of judges and lawyers who are contacted by the NBTA to independently verify the lawyer’s skill, experience and even the lawyer’s reputation for ethical and professional conduct.
2. They must establish that they are in good standing with their state bar association.
3. They must pass a day-long written examination.
4. They must submit actual copies of their written legal work for review.
5. They must provide documentation to prove their active involvement in multiple trials before judges and juries.

There are additional requirements that the lawyer must obtain continuing legal education and remain in good ethical standing with the bar association to keep their certification active.

Okay, this makes a lot of sense. How do I find an attorney who has been certified by the NBTA?

Some attorneys who are board certified by the NBTA indicate this information in their advertising or printed materials. In addition, you can call or write the NBTA for a complete and current listing of board certified attorneys in your area, or visit us on the web at www.nbtanet.org where you can find a list of certified attorneys through the “Find Qualified Counsel” heading.

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Selecting qualified trial representation is not an easy task. Review of the many conferences and publications released on the topic of trial law and legal specialization illustrates a clear consensus that a successful trial lawyer requires significant knowledge and expertise beyond the general practice of law, and that not every attorney is qualified or even capable of handling every case.

Originally founded in 1977, the **National Board of Trial Advocacy** (NBTA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to identifying highly qualified and experienced trial attorneys in the specialty areas of civil, criminal, and family law trial advocacy. NBTA's rigorous standards for certification cut through the proliferation of attorney advertising to provide the consumer of legal services with an *objective* measure of specialty expertise.

Every National Board of Trial Advocacy certified attorney has met, and continues to meet, NBTA's rigorous standards for certification illustrating nothing less than;

High Ethical Standards
Extensive Experience in the Designated Specialty
Hefty Participation in the Development of Law
and Continuing Legal Education
Outstanding Peer and Judicial Commendations
and
Demonstrated Practical Skill in the Designated Specialty

For more information please contact;

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