

Minnesota State Bar Association

Certified ▲ Specialist

SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

An MSBA Certified Specialist is recognized for advanced skills, expertise, and significant involvement in a specific legal area. Fewer than 2% of all registered attorneys in Minnesota are certified specialists in their field.



"Becoming a certified Specialist in Criminal Law made me more confident in my skills and abilities and helped me grow as an Attorney. It made me sure of my abilities as it demonstrates that you have completed a certain number of jury trials and can handle more difficult cases and client situations."

Richard Ohlenberg

State of MN Public Defender's Office, First Judicial District
MSBA Criminal Law Certified Specialist since 2016

"I became a certified specialist because the certification provides independent, third-party recognition of my commitment to employment law. For prospective clients, that objective, skill-based assessment is particularly meaningful: it signals that I have the knowledge, skills, and experience to partner with them on important strategic decisions affecting their employees and workplaces."



Molly Ryan

Meagher + Geer
MSBA Labor & Employment Law Certified Specialist since 2016



"After over a decade with a national title insurance underwriter and seven years practicing law, I pursued certification to give clients and colleagues an objective measure of the expertise I bring to commercial real estate transactions. I'm proud to be recognized among Minnesota's leading real property lawyers."

Jessica Willes

Winthrop & Weinstine
MSBA Real Property Law Certified Specialist since 2025

"MSBA certification is an excellent way to inform the public, colleagues, and clients of your specialization in this fast-paced and ever-changing area of practice. After receiving my LL.M. in Labor Law, taking the specialty examinations, and completing the rigorous vetting process were the logical next steps. Newer attorneys, in particular, can benefit from being able to proudly include their certifications in their bios."



Bruce Douglas

Ogletree Deakins
MSBA Civil Trial Law Certified Specialist since 2013
MSBA Labor & Employment Law Certified Specialist since 2011

The MSBA certifies attorneys in Civil Trial Law, Criminal Law, Labor & Employment Law, and Real Property Law. Do you meet the requirements to become a specialist?

Learn more at: www.mnbars.org/certify