



Whether your situation is simple or complex, you should consider hiring an attorney who specializes in Criminal Law. Certified legal specialists are committed to maintaining their proficiency through ongoing practice and continuing education.



The State Bar  
*of California*

## LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-538-2120

### Need a Certified Specialist?

Use our certified specialist search tool:  
[www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneysearch](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneysearch)

# LEGAL SPECIALIZATION



What can a  
**Criminal Law  
Certified  
Specialist**  
do for you?

[calbar.ca.gov/legalspec](http://calbar.ca.gov/legalspec)  
Phone: 415-538-2120

## Why does the State Bar certify legal specialists?



To help the public identify attorneys who have demonstrated proficiency in specialized fields of law.



To encourage the maintenance and improvement of attorney competence in specialized fields of law.

## What does it mean when an attorney is a certified specialist?

A certified specialist is more than just an attorney who practices in a particular area of law—they've gone above and beyond to demonstrate proficiency. A California attorney who is certified by the State Bar as a Criminal Law specialist must have:

- ✓ Passed a comprehensive written examination in Criminal Law;
- ✓ Demonstrated extensive and varied experience in Criminal Law;
- ✓ Completed additional and ongoing education requirements; and
- ✓ Been favorably evaluated by other attorneys and judges familiar with their work.

A certified specialist knows the overall picture and can discuss different strategies to help you choose the best one for your needs.

## What can a Criminal Law certified specialist do for you?

Criminal Law is complex and high-stakes. A Certified Criminal Law Specialist has the expertise and courtroom experience to guide you through it with confidence. A Certified Specialist in Criminal Law can:

- ✓ Represent you at every stage of a criminal case—from arrest and arraignment to trial and sentencing;
- ✓ Analyze the charges against you and explain your rights, options, and possible outcomes;
- ✓ Argue motions to suppress evidence and challenge unlawful searches or seizures;
- ✓ Negotiate effectively with prosecutors for reduced charges, dismissals, or favorable plea deals;
- ✓ Defend you before a jury with trial-tested strategies;
- ✓ Handle post-conviction matters such as appeals or expungements;
- ✓ Advocate for your best interests during bail hearings, probation violations, or parole issues; and
- ✓ Ensure your constitutional rights are protected throughout the process.

**Criminal law is a critical area of law, and having a specialist with in-depth knowledge can make all the difference in navigating its complexities.**



## LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

### In what fields of law are attorneys certified by the State Bar?

- ✓ Admiralty & Maritime Law
- ✓ Appellate Law
- ✓ Bankruptcy Law
- ✓ Criminal Law
- ✓ Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law
- ✓ Family Law
- ✓ Franchise & Distribution Law
- ✓ Immigration & Nationality Law
- ✓ Legal Malpractice Law
- ✓ Taxation Law
- ✓ Workers' Compensation Law

### How can I find a Certified Specialist?

To find a certified specialist, please visit the Attorney Search webpage, select the Certified Specialists link, and use the drop down to search by certified legal specialty: [www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneysearch](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/attorneysearch)

### Contact:

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