

BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN REAL ESTATE

So what does it mean? Certification is the highest level of evaluation by The Florida Bar of competency and experience within an area of law, and professionalism and ethics in practice. Board certified lawyers are evaluated for professionalism and tested for expertise. "Board certification is one of the highest recognitions a lawyer in Florida can receive. The very difficult testing and extensive background peer review to confirm professional conduct is such a high standard that just seven percent of our eligible membership has achieved this level of recognition. All board certified attorneys should be extremely proud of their accomplishment", said a past Florida Bar President when asked about the relevance of board certification.

Effective August 1, 2014, Pamela T. Karlson, Esquire of Karlson Law Group, P.A., with offices in Sebring and Lake Placid, became certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Real Estate. While there are nearly 100,000 attorneys in Florida, less than 500 are board certified in the area of Real Estate. This is due in great part to the stringent requirements necessary to meet this level of board certification. "Real Estate" as used by the Florida Bar in its certification process, is the practice of law, regardless of jurisdiction, dealing with matters relating to ownership and rights in real property including, but not limited to, the examination of titles, real estate conveyances and other transfers, leases, sales and other transactions involving real estate, condominiums, cooperatives, property owners associations and planned developments, interval ownership, zoning and land use planning regulation, real estate development and financing, real estate litigation, and the determination of property rights.

Certification Process: Board certification was established in 1982 to help consumer identify specialists in various areas of the law. There are currently 24 areas of certification in Florida. Certified attorneys are the only lawyers allowed to use the terms expert, specialist or B.C.S. (board certified specialist), when referring to their legal credentials. To become a board certified specialist a lawyer must:

- Be an active member in good standing with the Florida Bar. (Pam was admitted in 1994.)
- Practice law for a minimum of 5 years. (Pam has practiced law for 20 years.)
- Complete approved legal education programs. (Pam has completed over 50 hours in continuing legal education during the last 12 months.)
- Demonstrate substantial experience in the specialty area. (At least 40% percent of Pam's practice has been in the area real estate since 2004.)
- Be favorably evaluated by judges and other lawyers as to competency and professionalism in the specialty field.
- Pass a rigorous six hour written examination in the specialty area.

Florida Bar board certified specialists are legal experts dedicated to professional excellence. When selecting an attorney for your real estate needs, or referring your customers and clients to an attorney, be confident in your selection and choose a board certified specialist and expert in "Real Estate", Pamela T. Karlson, B.C.S. For more information on Florida Bar board certification or to find a board certified lawyer, visit FloridaBar.org/certification.



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