

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION
OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA



Brian D. Lerner has been certified and recertified as a specialist in Immigration & Nationality Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization since 2000

Why Does the State Bar Certified Legal Specialists?

- **to help** the public identify attorney who have demonstrated proficiency in specialized fields of law.
- **to encourage** the maintenance and improvement of the 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 specializes in a particular area of law. A California attorney who is certified by the State Bar as an Immigration and Nationality Law specialist must have:

- **taken and passed** a written examination in Immigration and Nationality Law
- **demonstrated** a high level of experience in Immigration and Nationality Law
- **fulfilled** ongoing education requirements
- **been favorably evaluated** by other attorneys and judges familiar with her or his work.

What Can a Certified Immigration & Nationality Law Specialist Do for You?

- **advise you, your family, or your business so that you do not lose out to faulty immigration documentation preparation or failure to properly analyze your case.**
- **identify problems and proactively avoid unnecessary expense, delays, and rejection by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the INS)**
- **keep you current with changes in the law which affect legal rights or status and help with past mistakes**
- **protect your legal rights if contacted by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the INS)**

If apprehended by the BCIS (INS), you need qualified representation in bond and deportation hearings to assure due process and appeal rights.

As an employer, representation at BCIS (INS) audits and investigations assures compliance with verification and hiring requirements and voids fines or penalties.

- **protect your lawful residence status**
- **help you obtain U.S. citizenship**

The more complicated your situation, the more reason to consider hiring an attorney who specializes in Immigration & Nationality Law and who is committed through certification to keeping up her or his proficiency through continual practice and continuing education.

The State Bar of California program for certifying legal specialists is a Supreme Court approved method of certifying attorneys as specialists in eight specialty areas: Appellate Law, Criminal Law; Estate Planning; Trust & Probate Law; Family Law; Immigration & Nationality Law; Personal & Small Business Bankruptcy Law; Taxation Law, and Workers' Compensation Law.

Attorneys are certified through a process which includes successful passage of a written examination, completion of specific tasks in that specialty area, attendance at a prescribed number of approved education programs, and peer review. Certification is for a five-year period during which time specialists must continue to meet tasks and education and peer review requirements similar to those for certification.

[The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization](#)