

**HOW A CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY  
IS UNIQUE**

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A Certified Elder Law Attorney (“CELA”) is more than just an attorney who specializes in the field of Elder Law. CELAs are committed through certification, to maintaining and improving their proficiency with continual practice and continuing legal education. Becoming certified in Elder Law validates a lawyer’s specialty to handle issues that affect Senior Citizens.

A CELA is in a unique position to serve the interest of older, maturing populations by having met comprehensive and strict requirements. He or she must:

Be licensed to practice law in at least one State or the District of Columbia.

- Be actively practicing law and must have practiced law for at least five (5) years prior to applying for certification.
- Be a member in good standing of the Bar Associations in all places where he/she is licensed.
- Have spent an average of at least 16 hours a week practicing Elder Law during the three (3) years preceding the application for certification. The attorney must also have handled at least 60 Elder Law matters during those three years with a specified distribution among a wide variety of topics.
- Have participated in at least 45 hours of continuing legal education in Elder Law during the three (3) years preceding the application.
- Be favorably evaluated by five (5) Elder Law attorney specialists.
- Pass a one (1) time full-day certification examination.
- Repeat a similar Elder Law certification process.