

Speaker 1:

One of the things that you have to do in order to become board-certified is take a very extensive, detailed exam that tests you on all areas of criminal law in order to become board-certified. You have to show that you're experienced. There's a minimum number of trials that you have to have in state and federal court, misdemeanors and felonies, and then a certain number of matters in federal court and appeals. The way that I became board-certified is that I had well in excess of the minimum required number of trials. By the time I went into private practice on my own, I had already tried close to 60 trials in state court, I'd handled other matters in federal court. And I had also handled a couple of appeals while I was still with the District Attorney's Office.

Speaker 1:

In addition to being licensed by the State Bar of Texas, I'm also board-certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Criminal Law. Essentially that allows me to hold myself out as an expert in criminal law. It's a distinction that's only reserved for about 7% of attorneys practicing in the State of Texas. You can only obtain it after having proven that you are experienced and knowledgeable in a certain area of the law.