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## Letter of Recommendation: Specialist Certification

Section III. B.1. of Minnesota State Bar Association Criminal Law Specialist Standards and Requirements for Certification and Recertification requires that Applicants must obtain two (2) Letters of Recommendation; one from a judge before whom they have appeared in a criminal law matter and one from a lawyer who was opposing counsel in a contested criminal law matter.

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is applying to be certified as a Criminal Law Specialist.

In order to be certified as a Criminal Law Specialist, an Applicant must meet all the Minnesota State Bar Association Criminal Law Specialist Standards and Requirements for Certification and Recertification approved by the Minnesota State Board of Legal Certification (MBLC). Your reference does not need to exceed one page. *Attach additional pages if necessary.*

The following statements are intended to assist you in drafting your reference but are not required:

1. A Certified Criminal Law Specialist is expected to be knowledgeable and proficient in their specialty area and obviously competent in their skills relating to the normal tasks in the area. *Please explain if you believe this applicant meets these criteria.*

2. A Certified Criminal Law Specialist is expected to demonstrate interest in and commitment to their specialty area. In addition to work skills, the applicant may demonstrate this by involvement in professional activities, teaching, speaking, writing, honors received, pro bono work, etc. *Please explain if you believe this applicant demonstrates this dedication to the specialty area of criminal law.*

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3. A Certified Criminal Law Specialist is expected to exhibit professional and ethical conduct. *Please explain if you believe this applicant meets these criteria.*

4. A Certified Criminal Law Specialist is expected to demonstrate commitment to the goal of equal justice for all in the criminal justice system. *Please explain if you believe this applicant has demonstrated commitment to this goal.*

I recommend \_\_\_\_\_

YES  NO

for certification as a Criminal Law Specialist because I am familiar with the Applicant's work as a criminal lawyer and can attest to the Applicant's skills, knowledge, professionalism and dedication to the criminal justice system.

The Applicant may review this Letter of Recommendation.

YES  NO

Thank you for your assistance with the Minnesota State Bar Association Certified Criminal Law Specialist program. For more information, please visit <http://www.mnbar.org/members/certification/criminal-law>. If you have questions, please contact Susan Koplin, Certified Legal Specialists Director, (612) 278-6318 or [skoplin@mnbar.org](mailto:skoplin@mnbar.org).

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*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature and Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Firm/Court*

**Mail this Letter of Recommendation to the following address:**

**Minnesota State Bar Association**  
**Certified ▲ Specialist**

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 380  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1039  
612-278-6318 | [www.mnbar.org](http://www.mnbar.org)