



Find Your Lawyer



Accredited Specialisation

FAST FACTS

WHAT IS AN ACCREDITED SPECIALIST?

An Accredited Specialist is a lawyer recognised as having expertise in a particular area of law. Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) Accredited Specialists:

- must have at least five years' full-time practice experience and at least three years' experience in their area of specialisation;
- must maintain a high degree of professional development in their area of specialisation, which involves the continual development of their skills;
- must pass a comprehensive assessment testing technical knowledge, writing and practical interview or advocacy skills. This assessment is developed and assessed by other senior Accredited Specialists, academics and members of the Victorian Bar; and
- need to apply for re-accreditation every three years, ensuring the highest standards are maintained.

WHY USE AN ACCREDITED SPECIALIST?

This specialisation scheme aims to benefit the public and other lawyers by:

- offering clients and other professions a reliable and easier way of finding a lawyer with special competence in particular areas of law;
- providing an incentive and an opportunity for lawyers to reach and maintain higher levels of expertise in their chosen area of specialist practice;

- encouraging improvement in the quality, speed and cost efficiency of legal service; and
- protecting consumer rights by helping you to easily recognise lawyers who are trained and competent in the work you have entrusted them to do.

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY LAWYER IS AN ACCREDITED SPECIALIST?

Only practitioners who successfully complete the LIV's Accredited Specialist assessment can call themselves an Accredited Specialist. You will be able to recognise any lawyer who displays the Accredited Specialist logo and certificate of accreditation as an Accredited Specialist. You can also use the LIV Accredited Specialist directory at www.liv.asn.au/Specialists to search for an Accredited Specialist in a particular area of law.



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ACCREDITED SPECIALISTS RAISING THE STANDARD

Accredited Specialists are required to maintain a high level of education involvement in their areas of speciality by:

- ensuring that the speciality remains a substantial part of their practice;
- maintaining a higher level of continuing professional development than other lawyers, including participation in and presentation of seminars, conferences, workshops and law reform; and
- continually striving to improve the standing of their firm

THE SPECIALISATION BOARD OF THE LIV ACCREDITED LAWYERS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF LAW:

- Business
- Commercial Litigation
- Costs
- Environment & Planning
- Immigration
- Personal Injury
- Tax
- Workplace Relations
- Children's
- Commercial Tenancy
- Criminal
- Family
- Mediation
- Property
- Wills & Estates

HOW DO I FIND AN ACCREDITED SPECIALIST?

Choosing the right lawyer is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. You can use the LIV Accredited Specialist directory at www.liv.asn.au/Specialists to find an Accredited Specialist who is a leader in their field.

You can also use the LIV Legal Referral Service which provides free referrals to solicitors all over Victoria. The Legal Referral Service can provide you with a list of Accredited Specialists and all lawyers included in the service agree to see clients for up to the first 30 minutes free of charge.

Contact the Legal Referral Service on **03 9607 9550** or visit **www.liv.asn.au/referral**.

For further information about LIV Accredited Specialists contact:

E: special@liv.asn.au

W: www.liv.asn.au/For-the-Community/Find-a-Lawyer-Directories

Please note the above information is not intended to, and does not encompass all aspects of the law on this subject matter. Further professional advice should be sought before action is taken based on matters outlined on this page. January 2013.

