



How To Choose An Attorney. . . .



MICHAEL L. TESTA
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Choosing an attorney can be a very confusing and trying experience. Maybe you never needed an attorney before and this is your first experience locating one. The whole experience can leave you anxious. Relying on the Yellow pages with the many listings can leave you exhausted. Sometimes you might ask a friend to refer you to someone which can turn out to be someone not suit-

able for your legal problem. Why not go right to the expert....a certified trial attorney. Hopefully the information provided will help make your decision easier.

What is a Certified Civil Trial Attorney?

Certified Civil Trial Attorney is a designation granted by the New Jersey Supreme Court to attorneys obtaining sufficient levels of experience, knowledge and skill in civil trial practice.

An attorney must meet the standards set by the Board and be approved by the Court.

What are the qualifications to become a Certified Civil Trial Attorney?

An attorney who is certified as a civil trial attorney must be a member in good standing of the New Jersey Bar for over five years. They are evaluated by a review process consisting of attorneys and judges familiar with his work. The attorney must display a high level of practice and expertise in civil trial law, complete the necessary applications and pass a written examination in trial law. They are

then required to continue their legal education.

What is a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney?

Certified Criminal Trial Attorney is a designation granted by the New Jersey Supreme Court to attorneys obtaining sufficient levels of experience, knowledge and skill in criminal trial practice. An attorney must meet the standards set by the Board and be approved by the Court.

In what areas of law does the New Jersey Supreme Court certify attorneys?

Attorneys can obtain certification by the Supreme Court of New Jersey in four specialty areas of practice. Court certifications include: Civil trial law, Criminal trial law, Matrimonial law and Workers' Compensation law.

How will you know if an attorney is Board Certified?

Only attorneys certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court are entitled to use the designation "Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Civil Trial Attorney" on their business cards, letterhead, Yellow Pages listing and advertisements.

Michael L. Testa, Esq., senior partner of Basile & Testa, PA has been a Certified Civil Trial Attorney since 1987. Mr. Testa is a graduate of Villanova University School of Law and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1975.

Basile & Testa, P. A. Fights For Your Rights . . .

When you choose Basile & Testa, PA to handle your legal needs, you have a promise that they will vigorously defend your rights, provide sound legal advice, and allow your voice to be heard. This philosophy has resulted in the settlement or successful litigation of thousands of cases. Although they represent each client with the same commitment, they have litigated some very challenging cases.

- * Former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman sought experienced trial attorneys to represent the State in its historic lawsuit against the tobacco industry. Michael Testa and the firm were retained as co-counselors in the case, along with six other firms. A suit was filed against the tobacco industry seeking to recover billions of dollars that the State and its taxpayers paid through the Medicaid program for health care costs attributable to smoking related illnesses. Prior to going to trial, a 7.5 billion dollar settlement was reached for the State of New Jersey.
- * In Vineland, an eight year old child was struck by a car while crossing the street to board her school bus. The child sustained severe injuries as the result of the accident. Michael Testa obtained a settlement worth over \$1.8 million plus attorney fees.
- * The collapse of a scaffold used for the second floor construction a casino parking garage in Atlantic City caused a construction worker serious injury. He fell 18 feet to the first floor under concrete debris and was seriously injured. Michael Testa obtained an award for the injured worker totaling over \$1.6 million.
- * A Jet Ski collision that resulted in the leg amputation of a 17 year old girl was vigorously defended. The defendants claimed the plaintiff was responsible for the collision. The case settled for \$1.2 million.
- * Michael L. Testa represented a construction worker who was killed and another who was injured when the Tropicana Garage collapsed during construction. That case settled collectively for all of the plaintiffs for a total of \$101 million dollars, the largest injury construction settlement in the United States.

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TODD W. HECK, LL.M.

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MEMBER NJ, NY AND PA BAR

RENEE E. SCROCCA

MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR., LL.M.

MASTERS DEGREE IN TRIAL ADVOCACY

ROBERT J. CASELLA

MARIA V. GO

MEMBER NJ, NY AND PA BAR

JUSTIN R. WHITE

MEMBER NJ AND PA BAR

FRANK G. BASILE

(1963-2005)

FRANK J. TESTA

(1940-2001)



- Personal Injury • Medical Malpractice
- Criminal • Workers Compensation • Traffic
- Real Estate • Zoning • Wills • Employment Matters
- Tax Planning • Corporate Contracts & Litigation

Michael L. Testa was born in Vineland, N.J. He is certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as both a Civil and Criminal Trial Attorney. Michael has been certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He is permitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. In the area of Civil Litigation, he concentrates on the handling of all types of personal injury matters including medical negligence, product liability, wrongful death, automobile and construction accidents, and environmental and commercial litigation. Mr. Testa has written and published numerous articles and is a frequent lecturer on trial practice. He served as the president of New Jersey's branch of ATLA (Association of Trial Lawyers of America) from 1995-1996. His professional associations include the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Cumberland County Bar Association, the American Arbitration Association, The Association of Trial Lawyers, and the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey.

Mr. Testa has been selected as one of the Top Ten Lawyers in 2003 and 2004. In 2005, he received the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award for Cumberland County by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law. Most recently, he received the 2007 Trial Bar Award presented by the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey for "Distinguished Service in the Cause of Justice".

Mr. Testa has over 30 years of experience handling personal injury claims. Together with his staff, he prepares and investigates claims to obtain fair and just rewards for his clients.