



NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

## **Judicial Fellow Program and Active Judicial Fellow Program**

NBTA now has both Judicial Fellow Program and an Active Judicial Fellow Program for current certified specialists in good standing who leave the practice of law and become judicial officers.

### **Judicial Fellow Program**

Under the longstanding Judicial Fellow Program, NBTA Board Certified attorneys who leave the practice of law and become judicial officers can maintain their association with NBTA on a nonactive status. For the period during which they are Judicial Fellows, they no longer have to meet many ongoing obligations of active specialist such as continuing education requirements or specialty legal activity requirements. They also pay no annual fees. Of course, Judicial Fellows can only maintain this status while they are judicial officers. Should they step down, retire or otherwise be a judicial officer, they must let.

Should they elect to return to the practice of law, they will need to meet the ongoing obligations of active specialist such as continuing education and specialty task requirements on a going forward basis. Since their 5-year renewal cycle will remain the same as when they first became a certified specialist, the ongoing active specialist obligations will be prorated if they become an active certified specialist at some point during that 5-year cycle.

### **Active Judicial Fellow Program**

NBTA has recently expanded the options for Judicial Fellows. It is now possible for a full-time judicial officer to be an Active Judicial Fellow whose name will be searchable on the NBTA Website in the same way as other current NBTA certified specialists. The search results will show that you are a currently certified specialist, but it will note that you are not available to represent clients.

To qualify to be an Active Judicial Fellow, you must be a currently certified specialist at the time you become a bench officer. You must continue to complete 45 hours of CLE in your specialty area each 5th year of your existing certification, submit Evidence of Good Standing, Disclosure of Conduct and pay the recertification fee of \$200. Annually there is a renewal fee of \$100. Of course, your status as an Active Judicial Fellow may be revoked or suspended for failure to continue to qualify under this policy or as provided in the Standards.

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Active Judicial Fellows cannot hold themselves out as available to represent clients or otherwise market themselves to clients but they may state that they are currently certified by NBTA in their specialist area provided that the laws and regulations in the state(s) in which they are licensed permit them to do so and not all states do.

Of course, Active Judicial Fellows can only maintain this status while they are judicial officers. Should they step down, retire or otherwise be a judicial officer, they must contact the NBTA office at 508.384.6565 or email [jtomasetti@nbtalawyers.org](mailto:jtomasetti@nbtalawyers.org)

Should they elect to return to the practice of law, they will need to meet all of the ongoing obligations of active specialist such as continuing education and specialty task requirements on a going forward basis. Since their 5-year renewal cycle will remain the same as when they first became a certified specialist, the ongoing active specialist obligations will be prorated if they become an active certified specialist at some point during that 5-year cycle.

If you would like to become an Active Judicial Fellow, please contact the NBTA office to request an Application to Become an Active Judicial Fellow. Phone 508.384.6565 or email [jtomasetti@nbtalawyers.org](mailto:jtomasetti@nbtalawyers.org)

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