

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 03 - **9022**

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ORDER OF THE COURT APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE  
ATTORNEY STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION OF THE  
TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

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The Texas Board of Legal Specialization approved amendments to the Attorney Standards for Certification on February 5, 2003, and it appears to this Court that these Standards will advance the administration of justice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Attorney Standards for Certification be amended to read:

PART II -- SPECIFIC AREA REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY LAW  
SECTION I -- SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT AND SPECIAL COMPETENCE

B. Substantial Involvement for Certification

2. a. Certification applicants must show their substantial involvement and special competence in Texas family law practice within the 3 years immediately preceding application by providing such information as may be required by the TBLS regarding Texas family law cases participated in by the certification applicant as lead counsel *for a party* in the following:

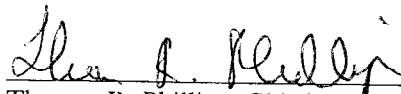
- (1) *A total of 9* contested final trials or *binding* arbitrations in Texas family law cases in which oral testimony was taken and in which *issues were determined by a finder of fact in a court of record, excluding default judgments. At least four (4) of the trials must have involved issues of property division and at least four (4) trials must have involved appointment or modification of managing conservatorship*; and
- (2) 30 contested Texas family law matters involving issues pertaining to Texas Family Code, Titles 1, 2, 4, or 5, handled and disposed of, prior to and without the necessity of, a contested final hearing or trial of the matters on the merits.

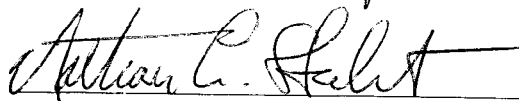
In addition, certification applicants must meet 2 of the following 3 categories within the 3 years immediately preceding:

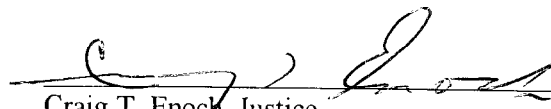
- (3) 2 Texas civil jury trials *at the county court at law or district court level*, one involving family law, submitted to the jury for decision;

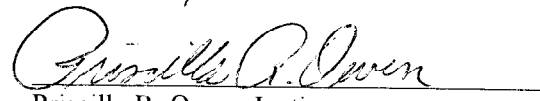
- (4) 1 Texas civil appeal involving family law, in which briefs were filed by the applicant;
- (5) 10 Texas mediations involving family law either as an attorney representing a litigant or as a mediator. The TBLs will take into account the nature, duration, and complexity of the mediations in determining whether they qualify in this category.

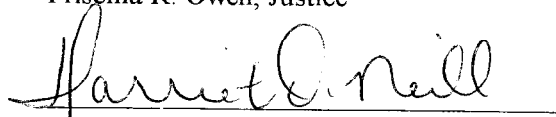
Signed this 19 day of February, 2003.

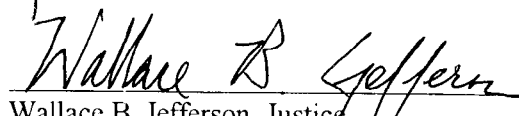
  
Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

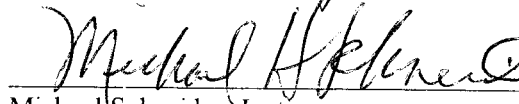
  
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice


  
Craig T. Enoch, Justice

  
Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

  
Harriet O'Neill, Justice

  
Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice

  
Michael Schneider, Justice

  
Steven W. Smith, Justice

  
J. Dale Wainwright, Justice