

CASE NO. CX-84-1651

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
IN SUPREME COURT

OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS  
FILED

SEP 14 1984

WAYNE TSCHIMPERLE  
CLERK

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In the Matter of the Petition  
of the Minnesota State Bar  
Association, a Corporation, to  
Amend the Code of Professional  
Responsibility and to Create a  
State Board of Legal Certification.

PETITION

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Minnesota State Bar Association petitions and represents to the  
Court:

The General Assembly of the Minnesota State Bar Association, on  
June 29, 1984, adopted a resolution directing the Association to  
petition the Minnesota Supreme Court for approval of a program for  
certification of lawyers as specialists in areas of the law by creating  
a Board of Legal Certification.

The purposes of the program to certify legal specialists are to  
increase public access to qualified legal services, and to improve the  
quality of legal services by improving the skills of those who offer  
legal services as specialists. Its purpose would not be to limit the  
range of acceptable advertising by lawyers generally, but only to allow  
a certified specialist to advertise that certification where the  
certifying agency has been approved by the Board of Legal  
Certification.

The certification of specialists, as proposed, will be directed by an agency of the Court, the State Board of Legal Certification, which will include lawyers and lay persons. Before an attorney may advertise or otherwise hold himself out to be a specialist, the agency providing such specialist certification must be approved by the Board of Legal Certification. The Board will have the responsibility to insure that minimum guidelines for certification in recognized specialties are met.


By separate petition, the Minnesota State Bar Association is requesting adoption of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct which replaces DR2-105 DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE with Rule 7.4, Communication of Fields of Practice. In the event that the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct are not adopted prior to or at the time of action on this petition, DR2-105 should be amended accordingly.

The order of this Court, creating the State Board of Legal Certification, is hereby requested.

Dated: September 13, 1984

MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

By   
David S. Doty, its President

By   
its Committee on Yellow  
Page Advertising  
James R. Bettenburg, Chairperson