

EDITORIAL**Specialized Reciprocity**

We are a transient society with transient professionals. Advances in business and technology encourage movement and the freedom of relocation.

However, the ease with which we can travel is not only beneficial, it can also be burdensome—especially for attorneys who have a specialized area of expertise. Because an attorney's license to practice law is valid only in the state where the bar examination has been taken, lawyers have a disadvantage compared to other professionals who can work as easily as they travel.

One solution to this problem is to allow each state to give area-specific exams, expressly intended to test attorneys in their specialized field. If attorneys have spent much of their career practicing law in a specific field,

they should not be prevented from relocating because of the unnecessary nuisance of studying for and taking another state's complete bar exam.

There are several public policy reasons why lawyers who want to practice a specific area of law in a different state—whether to be closer to family or to change their lifestyle—should be given easier access to that state's bar. For example, attorneys who have practiced in one field for many years can bring to an area new ways to solve similar problems faced by different states. Further, attorneys who have a great deal of experience and knowledge in a given field can educate at universities and law schools, while at the same time continuing their individual practices. In addition, area-specific testing encourages attorneys to

specialize in one or two fields, thereby increasing the overall level of competency throughout the legal profession.

Professional competency in the law should be an attorney's priority if the goal is the successful representation of clients. And as clients and matters of law become more global, we will see that the progression toward a global economy will create a demand for lawyers who are not only capable in specific areas of law, but also for attorneys who can transfer their skills with ease, rather than difficulty.

Instead of creating an impediment for the people who are relied upon for their problem-solving skills, steps should be taken to solve the problems that currently prevent qualified attorneys from relocating or working wherever they wish.

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