



# Specialisation

## What is an Accredited Specialist?

**An accredited specialist is a solicitor recognised by the Law Institute of Victoria as having expertise in a particular area of law. Only the best lawyers in their field of expertise become Law Institute of Victoria Accredited Specialists.**

- Accredited Specialists must have at least five years full time practise experience and at least three years practise experience in their area of specialisation.
- Accredited Specialists must maintain a high degree of Professional Development in their area of specialisation.
- All specialists must pass a comprehensive examination process, testing technical knowledge, writing and practical advocacy skills. This examination process is developed and assessed by industry experts.
- Specialists need to apply for re-accreditation every three years.

### Specialisation scheme

The specialisation scheme aims to benefit the public and other lawyers in three ways by:

- offering clients and other professionals a reliable and easier way of finding solicitors who have shown their ability and experience in specialised areas of law
- providing an incentive and an opportunity for solicitors to reach and maintain higher levels of expertise in their chosen area of specialist practice
- encouraging improvement in the quality, speed and cost efficiency of legal services

### How can you tell whether a solicitor is an accredited specialist?

Only Accredited Specialists can display a certificate of accreditation in their offices. Lists of accredited specialists can also be obtained from the Law Institute of Victoria website at [www.liv.asn.au/directory/specialists](http://www.liv.asn.au/directory/specialists). You may also find them in the Yellow Pages, just look for the Accredited Specialist Logo.

### Is an accredited specialist up-to-date?

Specialists are required to maintain a high level of involvement in their areas of specialty. This is achieved in two ways. The first is by ensuring that the specialty remains a substantial part of their practice. The second way is by maintaining a higher level of continuing professional development than other lawyers including participating in activities such as seminars, conferences and workshops. These activities are monitored by the Law Institute of Victoria. Some specialists are also actively involved in law reform.

### How can you find an accredited specialist?

Your solicitor is the best person to advise you and can refer you to an accredited specialist.

If you do not currently have a solicitor, the Law Institute of Victoria's legal referral service can provide you with a list of accredited specialists. You can contact the legal referral service on (03) 9607 9355.

### Contact

The Secretary  
Specialisation Board  
Law Institute of Victoria  
GPO Box 263C  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001, or  
DX 350, MELBOURNE, or  
Ph: (03) 9607 9461  
Fax: (03) 9607 9404  
Email: [special@liv.asn.au](mailto:special@liv.asn.au)

The Specialisation Board of the Law Institute of Victoria currently accredits solicitors in the following areas of legal practice:

- Business Law
- Commercial Litigation
- Commercial Tenancy Law
- Criminal Law
- Environment & Planning Law
- Family Law
- Immigration Law
- Mediation
- Personal Injury Law
- Property Law
- Tax Law
- Wills & Estates
- Workplace Relations

For further information about the specialisation scheme of the Law Institute of Victoria please visit our website at [www.liv.asn.au/directory/specialists](http://www.liv.asn.au/directory/specialists) or call (03) 9607 9461.

