

Certification Matters

Board Certified Attorneys Testify with TBJ

Attaining Board Certification is unique. For those who complete the requirements for both attorneys and paralegals alike, it is a chance to validate the years of dedication and study already cultivated by excellent practice alone. With the recent addition of two new specialty areas, Oil, Gas & Mineral law for paralegals, and Child Welfare Law for attorneys, TBLS continues to make progress in expanding to other areas of law. The benefits of this progress and overall Board Certification are universal, seen differently across generations, genders, ethnicities and more.

The *Texas Bar Journal* took notice as in February they featured three certified attorneys — one who has held the distinction for a while and two who recently passed their exams — about their practice areas, decisions to become certified, and why certification is so important to them. The following are their testimonies.

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Rahila Sultanali specializes in real estate and corporate law as a shareholder with Roberts Markel Wienberg Butler Hailey. In 2010, she graduated from the University of Houston Law Center and now works in the Fort Bend County office. She sees being Board Certified as an honor, to be member in an elite group of Texan lawyers who have proven themselves to uphold a commitment to life-long learning. “Be the best of the best,” Sultanali believes, “aim high as the sky’s the limit.”



Chris Ayres, of Ayres Law Offices in Addison, certainly recognizes the value of being Board Certified. As the youngest Texas lawyer to be double certified in both civil trial law and personal injury law, he sees that the certification provides a unique trust in the lawyer a client hires, as this particular lawyer has experience and knowledge not readily accessible. Ayres claims his father, Jack Ayres, had a massive influence in his decision to become Board Certified — perhaps because his dad has the highest level of certification in his field.



Carson Fisk might be a name you have heard recently — and rightfully so. As part of the original team that helped get the Construction Law certification off the ground, Fisk knew the importance of such a specialization in promoting the availability, accessibility and quality of legal services to clients as well as advancing the standards of the legal profession. As described by Fisk, being Board Certified makes you unique within the community and validates your practice. Also, lengthy litigation can often be avoided with beneficial resolutions because of this tight-knit community of specialized attorneys and paralegals who value professionalism, courtesy, and collegiality. Fisk graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 2003 and is a shareholder in Andrew Myers in Austin.

Read their full interviews published on the *Texas Bar Journal's* blog [here](#).

