



# Elevation in Rank Application

Elevation in Rank Fee: Please include check for \$100.00 made payable to ABOTA.

**Section I — Applicant Information** (Please type or print)

Name (Mr./Ms./Mrs./Hon.) \_\_\_\_\_ Nametage preference (First name/nickname): \_\_\_\_\_

Firm or Court \_\_\_\_\_

Firm or Court Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Bar number \_\_\_\_\_ Year admitted to Bar \_\_\_\_\_

Law School \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred address for official ABOTA correspondence:  Office  Home

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (optional): M / F \_\_\_\_\_

**Section II — Membership Qualifications** (Please refer to the reverse side for specific requirement for each class of membership)

I hereby make application for Elevation in Rank to:

Associate  Advocate  Diplomat

Primary practice or residence (city, state): \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience \_\_\_\_\_ Primary area of practice:  Plaintiff  Defense

**Complete all applicable information (Worksheets not required):**

- Civil jury trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel: \_\_\_\_\_
- Felony criminal trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel: \_\_\_\_\_
- Trial equivalency points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section III — Applicant Certification**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information presented herein and/or attached hereto is an accurate summary of my qualifications for Elevation in Rank.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section IV — Chapter Nomination and Approval**

As a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Executive Committee, I hereby certify that the foregoing applicant has been approved for Elevation in Rank by the Executive Board of the local chapter

EC Member (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Title (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Eligibility and Classes

Article III of the ABOTA Constitution governs membership eligibility and classes. Initial applications for membership must be for the "Member," "Associate," "Advocate" or "Judge" class of membership. Any trial lawyer who is of high personal character and honorable reputation, and who is a member of the Bar of the state, province, district or territory in which he or she practices, and who has met the qualifications hereinafter prescribed, may become a member of ABOTA upon nomination, election, and payment of initiation fees and dues.

The requirements for admission as a **Member, Associate, Advocate** and **Judge** rank are:

**Member** — Shall have completed (10) civil jury trials to jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel. The applicant shall further possess the other and additional professional and ethical attributes and accomplishments as becomes one committed to the preservation of the Seventh Amendment. Each such person shall be admitted to the rank of "Member" and shall have all the rights of any other class of membership.

**Associate** — Shall have at least five (5) years of active experience as a trial lawyer and as a member of the Bar of the state, province, district or territory in which he or she practices, and shall have tried a minimum of twenty (20) civil jury trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel or, in the alternative, shall have tried a minimum of ten (10) such civil jury trials and twenty (20) felony criminal trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel or, as a second alternative, shall have tried ten (10) civil jury trials to a conclusion in a jury verdict or

hung jury as lead counsel and have acquired 200 points under the trial experience equivalency provisions as defined by Bylaw IV, Section 1.

**Advocate** — Shall have at least eight (8) years of active experience as a trial lawyer and as a member of the Bar of the state, province, district or territory in which he or she practices, and shall have tried a minimum of fifty (50) civil jury trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel, or, in the alternative, shall have tried twenty-five (25) civil jury trials to a conclusion in a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel and shall have acquired 500 points under the trial equivalency provisions as defined by Bylaw IV, Section 1.

**Judge** — Any judge who by reason of his or her standing in the community and his or her contribution to the advancement of the cause of justice under the jury system, and who is a member or a former member of a State Bar Association and prior to becoming a judge has acquired the minimum qualifications required of an Associate member, shall be eligible for admission to membership, provided he or she has received an affirmative vote in accordance with Article III, Section 3, Subsection 3. An applicant under this class of membership shall be required to pay an initiation fee equivalent to that of an associate member and shall be subject to the payment of dues and assessments.

## Trial Experience Equivalency

Bylaw IV of the ABOTA National Bylaws establishes the following point system for trial experience equivalency authorized under Article III, Section 2 of the ABOTA Constitution:

### Section 1. Trial experience equivalency.

For the purposes of trial experience equivalency, an applicant's trial experience may, at the discretion of the National Board, be measured by the point system described hereinbelow:

■ The total number of points required for eligibility to admission are:

- (1) For the rank of Associate 200.
- (2) For the rank of Advocate 500.

■ Points shall be assigned on the following basis:

- (1) 10 points for each civil jury trial to jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel; or a felony criminal trial to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel.
- (2) 15 points for any trial described in (1) above which consumes more than 10 trial days.
- (3) 20 points for any trial described in (1) above which consumes more than 15 trial days.
- (4) 30 points for any trial described in (1) above which consumes more than 20 trial days.
- (5) 40 points for any trial described in (1) above which consumes more than 30 trial days.

- (6) One-half of the points to which an attorney would be otherwise entitled in cases where the jury returned a verdict will be assigned in the event the trial is concluded by means other than by jury verdict.

- (7) No applicant shall be considered unless he or she shall have tried a minimum of ten (10) civil jury trials to a conclusion in a court of general jurisdiction or a federal court for the rank of Associate; twenty-five (25) civil jury trials to a conclusion in a court of general jurisdiction or a federal court for the rank of Advocate.

### Section 2. Trial Day.

For the purpose of computing trial days, a trial shall be deemed to have commenced upon the swearing of the jury panel.

### Section 3. Eligibility.

In order to be eligible for the assignment of points enumerated herein, the attorney must be lead or full-time associate counsel.

### Section 4. Lead Counsel.

Lead Counsel is an attorney substantially responsible for the personal representation of the client during the trial. "Substantially responsible" means, at a minimum:

- (1) Selecting a jury, or opening, or closing.
- (2) Presentation of live witnesses through direct or cross examination.

### Section 5. Associate Counsel.

An attorney trying the case with lead counsel will be assigned fifty percent (50%) of the points eligible for lead counsel.

## Elevation in Rank

Article III, Section 2 of the ABOTA Constitution provides for an additional class of membership as follows:

**Diplomate** — Shall have at least twelve (12) years of active experience as a trial lawyer and as a member of the Bar of the state, province, district or territory in which he or she practices, shall have held the rank of Advocate for a minimum of three (3) years and shall have tried

a minimum of one hundred (100) civil jury trials to a conclusion in a court of general jurisdiction or a federal court, or, in the alternative, shall have tried fifty (50) civil jury trials to a conclusion in a court of general jurisdiction or a federal court and shall have acquired 1,000 points under the trial equivalency provisions as defined by Bylaw IV, Section 1.