



Please send your completed application and your payment to your local ABOTA Chapter.

Initiation Fee: Please include check for \$300.00 made payable to ABOTA. Annual Dues are \$750.00, plus State/Regional assessment, if any. Dues will be billed to you upon joining ABOTA.

Section I — Applicant Information (Please type or print)

Name (Mr./Ms./Mrs./Hon.) _____ Nametag preference (First name/nickname): _____

Firm or Court: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Firm or Court Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Law School: _____ Year graduated: _____ Year admitted to the Bar: _____ Bar Number: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ Ethnicity: _____ Gender: M / F

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

A list of tried cases on ABOTA Worksheets MUST be attached as supporting documentation.

I hear by make application for:

Member Associate Advocate Judge

■ Number of Civil jury trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel (Worksheet A): _____
100 points including (7) civil jury trials, as lead counsel, are required for eligibility

Primary practice or residence (city, state): _____

■ Number of Civil jury trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as associate counsel (Worksheet B): _____

Years of experience _____

■ Felony criminal trials to a jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel (Worksheet C): _____

Primary area of practice: Plaintiff Defense Both

Total _____

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 membership in ABOTA; further, that if elected to membership I will adhere to the ABOTA Constitution and Bylaws, to the Resolutions duly adopted by the National Board of Directors, to the Code of Professionalism, and to the Principles of Civility, Integrity, and Professionalism. I further certify that I have not been formally disciplined for an ethical violation by any state or federal court, bar association, or disciplinary tribunal other than as disclosed in this Application for Membership and/or in an attachment hereto. **I certify the majority of my practice is a civil, not criminal, trial practice.**

I acknowledge and agree that if elected to membership in ABOTA my membership is both voluntary and a privilege and may be terminated in accordance with the ABOTA Constitution and Bylaws; further, that should my membership be terminated, I will immediately return to ABOTA my membership plaque and/or any and all other formal indicia of membership issued to me and use of the ABOTA logo. I further acknowledge and agree that so long as I am a dues-paying member of ABOTA I will pay all dues, assessments, and/or fees assessed in accordance with the ABOTA Constitution and Bylaws.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section IV — Chapter Nomination and Approval

■ As a member of the _____ Chapter, I hereby nominate the foregoing applicant for membership in ABOTA:

Member's Name (please print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

■ As a member of the _____ Chapter Executive Committee, I hereby certify that the foregoing applicant has received an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Executive Board of the local chapter and an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the local chapter present and voting at an official meeting of, or in mailing to, the chapter's general membership.

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 (7) civil jury trials to jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel and acquired 100 points under the trial equivalency provisions as defined by Bylaw IV Section 1. The 100 points shall include all points earned from the seven (7) civil trials to jury verdict or hung jury as lead counsel. No more than 30 of the 100 points for the Member class may be from felony jury trials. 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 the right to 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 a 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 the trial experience equivalency authorized under Article III, Section 2 of the ABOTA Constitution:

Section 1: Trial experience equivalency.

For purposes of trial 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 rank of Member 100
- (2) For rank of Associate 200
- (3) For rank of Advocate 500

Points shall be assigned on the following basis:

- (1) 10 points for each civil jury trial asto a jury verdict in a state or federal court; or hung jury as lead counsel; or felony criminal trial to a jury verdict.
- (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 any 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 (7) civil jury trials to jury verdict or hung jury for the rank of Member, a minimum of (10) civil jury trials as lead counsel to a jury verdict or hung jury for the rank of Associate; twenty-five (25) civil jury trials as lead counsel to a jury verdict or hung jury 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:

Selecting a jury, or opening, or closing, and:
Presentation of live witnesses through direct or cross examination.

Section 5. Associate Counsel.

Any attorney trying the case with lead counsel with assigned fifty person (50%) of the points eligible for lead counsel.

Section 6. Jury Verdict.

“Jury verdict” as used in the Constitution and Bylaws means a verdict returned by a jury, whether or not eventually accepted by the trial court. It does not include directed verdict, mistrial, or other means of disposition of the case but does include a hung jury.

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.

