

# Powell Law partner Mark Powell receives rare dual certifications from National Board of Trial Advocacy

SCRANTON, PA -- Attorney Mark J. Powell, 43, a senior partner at Scranton's historic Powell Law firm, has been awarded the coveted Certification in Criminal Law from the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

This designation -- coupled with the NBTA Civil Certification he received in August 2006 -- places him in the very select company of highly specialized attorneys nationwide: An elite group Board Certified as both Civil and Criminal Trial Specialists by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. The NBTA is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) to certify lawyers in the specialty areas of civil, criminal and family trial advocacy.

"The NBTA is a non-profit organization dedicated to bettering the quality of trial advocacy in our nation's courtrooms and assisting the consumer of legal services in finding experienced and highly qualified trial lawyers," Powell, a lifelong Moosic resident, said. "It is a prestigious organization that provides invaluable services to consumers and I am honored to have received both of their highly sought-after certifications."

In his notification letter from the National Board of Legal Specialty Certifications, Membership Director Melissa A. Sternbach said: "Congratulations....You have been added to our prestigious membership of attorneys and are now officially recognized as a lawyer who has demonstrated the special knowledge, skills and proficiency to be properly identified as a 'Board Certified Criminal Trial Advocate.'"

Louis Natali, professor of law at Temple Law School, said: "I am pleased that Mark's abilities, expertise and dedication to upholding the highest standards of the legal profession have been recognized by the NBTA. From his student days right through this latest accomplishment he has never been content to be simply good: He always seeks to be the best. I am pleased that his high stature in the legal community has been recognized by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and I join them in celebrating Mark's achievements."

The value of NBTA certification -- and its philosophy that bona-fide attorney certification programs substantially advance the public interest -- was acknowledged by former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Warren Burger, who commented that a "system of certification for trial advocates is an imperative...."

Michael Chambers, a state coordinator for NBTA, said: "NBTA certification is about credibility born from credentials, excellence honed from experience and integrity earned by all these."

These three characteristics -- excellence, integrity and credentials achieved through strenuous effort -- can be said to define Powell's career, one studded with achievements and accolades.

Powell, a Scranton native, has been recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer by *Philadelphia* magazine and *Pennsylvania Law and Politics*. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed him as a Hearing Committee Member of the Disciplinary Board where he currently serves as a Senior Member.

He is on the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and is a former President of the Northeast Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Lawrence W. Roth Award presented by the Northeast Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. Formerly, he co-chaired the Lackawanna Bench-Bar Educational Conference which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2006.

Powell, the first area lawyer to obtain a Master's of Laws in Trial Advocacy, has been awarded Faculty Designation by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. As a NITA faculty member, he teaches programs on Depositions, Trial Advocacy and Advanced Trial Skills at both Georgetown Law School and Temple Law School

A frequent and sought-after speaker, he has lectured widely on automobile negligence, bad faith and premise liability. A prolific author, his publications include *Lien on Me: Practical Considerations Asserting Attorney Liens* (PA Trial Lawyers Association, March, 2006); and *High-Tech on a Low Budget* (Lackawanna Bar Association, Oct. 2004).

Powell's local roots run deep. He is the youngest child of Attorney Christopher T. Powell, Sr., who passed away in 1990, and the youngest grandchild of Attorney James J. Powell, Sr., the founding father of Powell Law in 1906.

He attended Riverside schools starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University, his Juris Doctorate from Catholic University and his Master of Laws in Trial Advocacy with honors from Temple University Law School.

He and his wife, Donna, have four children: Patrick, 13; Maura, 12; Ryan, 9; and Maggie, 6.