

Legal Connections



Learn more about the Columbus Bar leadership being inducted at our Annual Meeting next week: www.cbalaw.org

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LEGAL EXPERTISE FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

JUNE 3 - 9, 2022

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS CERTIFICATIONS: WHY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD CONSIDER CERTIFICATION

Women-owned business certifications aim to provide women-owned businesses with opportunities by offering support in areas such as obtaining funding and securing government and/or private-sector contracts.

Government-sponsored women-owned business certifications, among other aims, allow business owners who belong to historically disadvantaged classes to be considered for select government contracts to the exclusion of others. To help bridge gaps in industries where women and minorities are historically underrepresented, government agencies at the federal, state and local levels award a certain percentage of their contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses.

In some cases, set-aside contracts for women-owned businesses even extend into the private sector. In fact, through



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set-aside contracts, women- and minority-owned businesses are shaping the local culture around Columbus, Ohio more than most are likely even aware. Having completed construction on the long-anticipated Columbus Crew SC's stadium in summer of 2021, women- and minority-owned businesses are responsible for more than a quarter of the work that was performed.

Currently, according to the National Association of Women Business Owners, the United States has 12.3 million women-owned businesses, making up 40% of all U.S. businesses. Historically, women-owned businesses have struggled to obtain equal representation in many industries, to secure funding for their businesses, and to be selected for lucrative contract work.

Having multiple certifications is significant to securing contracts set aside for women business owners with different agencies and companies, because each

organization has separate requirements as to the certifications that must be obtained.

To be eligible for these set-aside awards, women-owned businesses must apply for and be granted the required certification. Many of the certifications possess the same general requirements. To secure a certification, women-owned businesses typically must show they are at least 51% owned, capitalized and controlled by a woman, and that a woman holds the highest executive office, is responsible for managing the day-to-day business, and has technical experience in the business' primary activity.

Holding some certifications may be more helpful to women-owned businesses than others. The utility of different federal, state and local certifications ultimately depends on the industry and goals of the business. Getting the certification is just the beginning. Becoming certified allows women-owned businesses to bid on certain contracts, but it doesn't guarantee they will win the bid and be awarded the work.

Certifications provide women-owned businesses with invaluable opportunities. Women entrepreneurs should research agencies and companies that offer attractive contract opportunities for their businesses and consider undergoing the process to obtain required certifications for those entities. Legal representation can also help with this endeavor. ■

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EDUCATION & EVENTS

■ Thursday, June 9 • 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Columbus Bar Association Annual Meeting 2022

■ Friday, June 10 • 12 – 1 p.m.
Abatements and Exemptions: Application, Approval, Oversight, and Transparency
1.0 CLE Hour

All classes listed are offered by the Columbus Bar Association through Zoom. To register, call 614-221-4112 or enroll online at www.cbalaw.org.

GET READY FOR SETTLEMENT WEEK, STARTING JULY 13! LEARN MORE AT CBALAW.ORG

RESTRAINING ORDERS VS. PROTECTIVE ORDERS IN OHIO

Protection orders in Ohio are designed to keep you and your loved ones safe if you have experienced any domestic violence, stalking or sexual violence. By understanding the differences between restraining orders vs. protective orders, you can start taking the next steps to regain control of your safety.

A protection order is granted by an Ohio judge and orders the abuser to stay away from you, your children, family members or protected persons



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also impacted by the order. Under the requirements of the protective order, a respondent should not enter your home or approach you in your place of employment or school. If a protection order is violated, a respondent could be arrested, or criminal charges could be filed.

While a protective order does not guarantee your safety, it is designed to stop actions like: physical assault, sexual assault, threats, making unwanted contact, coming to your home or workplace, or stalking.

An Ohio judge can approve a protection order for up to five years.

Restraining Orders vs. Protective Orders
While you might be more familiar with the idea of a restraining order, it's critical to know that a restraining order is not the same as a protective order in the state of Ohio. Some of the most notable differences include:

• **Correlation to other legal cases:**
A restraining order is only issued in Ohio as part of another legal case. Restraining orders are designed to keep one side from taking action against another side while a court case is in

progress. Most often, restraining orders are issued during divorce proceedings when there is a threat of fleeing the state. Protective orders are filed separately from any other ongoing legal case and are a separate case.

• **Violations:** In Ohio, violating a restraining order is not considered a crime. Violations of restraining orders are enforced by the filing of a contempt action. However, violating the terms of a protective order is a crime and can lead to charges or an arrest. ■

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Featuring the installation of:

David H. Thomas
2022-23 CBA President

And presentation of awards to:

Larry James
Professionalism Award
Bar Service Medal
Hon. Stephen McIntosh

CBA

Annual Meeting

THURSDAY
JUNE 9
4:30-6:30pm

THE FIVES
500 Reach Blvd.

Cocktails

Appetizers

Meet the new Board

Network and connect

Free parking

TICKETS:
www.cbalaw.org