



## **ABOTA MEMBERSHIP FAQ'S** **(revised February, 2008)**

### **1. What are the minimum requirements for membership in ABOTA?**

**Answer:** The minimum requirements for membership can be found in Article III, Section 2 of the ABOTA Constitution. They are also on the back of the most recent application for membership form, which can be downloaded by a member from the ABOTA website: [www.abota.org](http://www.abota.org) or, you may contact the National Office for a copy of the most recent application form and worksheets. It is important that you use the most recent application form and worksheets.

The minimum requirements can be summarized as follows:

If an applicant can list 20 civil jury trials to jury verdict as lead counsel, the minimum requirements are met.

If an applicant cannot list 20 trials, per above, but can list a minimum of 10 civil jury trials to jury verdict as lead counsel and can show accumulation of 200 trial experience equivalency points, the applicant qualifies.

The trial experience equivalency points are measured by the point system listed in Bylaw IV Section 1. (Also found on the back of the application.) This bylaw details how points are assigned, providing 10 points for most trials and more points for trials lasting longer than 10 days.

- i. Civil jury trials to jury verdict as lead counsel are assigned 100% of the points listed.
- ii. Civil jury trials to jury verdict as associate counsel receive 50% of the points that would be allowed as lead counsel.
- iii. Civil jury trials that are resolved, after the voir dire panel is sworn, other than by jury verdict receive 50% of the points that a trial ending in a jury verdict would receive.
- iv. Major felony jury trials to jury verdict receive 100% of the points listed but don't count as any of the initial qualifying 10 civil trials to jury verdict.

For purposes of counting the days of trial for accumulation of points, the trial is considered to have begun when the voir dire panel is sworn and ends the day the jury returns a verdict or the case is otherwise resolved during the trial.