

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONTRACT COUNSEL AND PUBLIC DEFENDERS**

An attorney appointed by the Commission to represent clients, whether as a contract counsel or as a public defender, shall be licensed to practice law in the State of North Dakota.

An attorney who undertakes representation of clients as an appointed counsel must have sufficient training and experience to provide effective representation. In order to provide quality representation, an attorney must be familiar with the substantive criminal law and the law of criminal procedure, and its application in the State of North Dakota. Appointed counsel has a continuing obligation to stay abreast of changes and developments in the law, to meet the necessary requirements to maintain their license, and to meet any requirements set by Commission for training.