Legal Bite Question of the Issue

Am I Qualified to Testify?

By Frank Recker, DDS, JD

Q: I am an ABOI/ID Diplomate testifying on behalf of a dentist who is being sued in a malpractice action involving implants. In spite of my Diplomate status, the attorney said that the only “valid” credentials are those recognized by the ADA. Is this true?

A: In a word, no. Attorneys are often ill informed about dental credentialing. As we all know, the ADA has a “process” whereby it “recognizes” various areas of dentistry as dental “specialties.” The ADA has no process or mechanism by which it evaluates, rates, or approves any specific dental credential. And since there is no ADA recognized “specialty” in implant dentistry, any ADA recognized “specialist” in any other area of dentistry who is contradicting your testimony cannot be deemed or declared a “specialist” on the issues. In fact, just because someone is a specialist in an ADA recognized specialty means nothing relative to their education, skill, training, and experience in dental implant procedures. The only credentials in implant dentistry, which have been recognized in court decisions, are the AAID Fellow and Associate Fellow, as well as the ABOI/ID Diplomate.