

# KEY CHANGES TO CLE RULES (IN 2024, IF APPROVED)

## Increase Reporting Period



3-year reporting period for lawyers to complete their CLE requirements. Lawyers split into 3 reporting groups.

**Reason:** Gives lawyers more flexibility to take courses at their own pace and eases administrative burden on CLE staff.

## Eliminate Annual Report



The requirement to file an Annual Report is eliminated.

**Reason:** If a lawyer's CLE record indicates compliance with the requirements, then a filing requirement is unnecessary.

## Change Fee Structure



Eliminates the \$3.50 per credit hour fee in favor of a course application fee and an annual CLE attendance fee.

**Reason:** Improves efficiency for the CLE program, reduces a lawyer's annual cost of attendance, and eliminates "bill collecting".

## No "Grace Period"



The CLE year will run from March 1 through the end of February.

**Reason:** Most lawyers don't realize that the CLE year ends in December, and that January/February is meant to be a grace period. A clean 12-month CLE year is more efficient for everyone.

## Carry-Over Credit



Up to 6 hours of Carry-over credit from one period to another can transfer as total hours (not specialty hours).

**In October, the Board will propose increasing the amount of carry-over credit back to 12 hours.**

## Improved Enforcement



Lawyers who fail to complete their hours requirements will be subject to additional compliance fees and a more streamlined suspension process.

**Reason:** With additional flexibility comes increased individual responsibility and accountability.

## ADDITIONAL CHANGES

- As part of the 36-hour requirement over three years, lawyers must complete at least:
  - 6 Ethics hours (Professional Responsibility, Professionalism, or Social Responsibility)
  - 1 Professional Well-Being and Impairment (PWI) hour
  - 1 Technology Training hour
- On-Demand programs will be approved for three years and thereafter may be renewed annually as long as the program continues to meet accreditation standards.
- The designation of “Registered Sponsor” is eliminated. (Note: The Board is evaluating whether to propose a new “registered” or “accredited” sponsor status.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health program definition is modernized and is now called Professional Well-Being (PW).
- A new type of ethics program called “Social Responsibility” is created and is defined as “a program, directly related to the practice of law, devoted to education about diversity, inclusion, bias, or equal access to justice.”
- Exemptions will be claimed during the annual membership dues renewal process.
- The CLE Board intends to maintain its historical funding in support of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism (CJCP) and the Equal Access to Justice Commission (EAJC).

## CONTACT US

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