

RULES FOR MANDATORY CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

It is essential to the public that elected and appointed judges, elected and appointed clerks, and employees of the Unified Judicial System continue their education in order to maintain and increase professional competence and to ensure the delivery of quality judicial services to the people of the State of Alabama. These Rules establish minimum requirements for continuing judicial education.

Rule 1. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Administrative Director of Courts ("the ADC") shall administer the program of mandatory continuing judicial education established by these Rules through the Alabama Judicial College ("the AJC"). The ADC shall establish rules and regulations and modify or amend those rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the Alabama Supreme Court. These Rules and the rules and regulations established by the ADC shall apply to all elected and appointed appellate, circuit, district, and municipal judges in the State of Alabama; to all elected and appointed circuit and district clerks in the State of Alabama; to all judicial system employees at the trial court level (hereinafter referred to in these Rules as "judicial system employees"); and to municipal court employees in the State of Alabama for whom education is offered.

(a) The director of the AJC, under the direction of the ADC, shall serve as the administrator of the judicial education program established in these Rules.

(b) The ADC shall submit proposed policies, standards, guidelines, and procedures applicable to all judicial education activities to the Alabama Supreme Court for approval. The ADC and the AJC director shall monitor and evaluate the quality of educational programs and make changes where appropriate within the approved guidelines for funding, attendance, and accreditation.

(c) The Alabama Judicial College Faculty Association ("the AJCFA") shall monitor policies, standards, guidelines, and procedures of the judicial education program. The AJCFA consists of the Chief Justice, the ADC, the AJC director, the assistant finance director for the Administrative Office of Courts ("the AOC"), one circuit judge appointed by the president of the Circuit Judges Association, one district judge appointed by the president of the District Judges Association, and one circuit clerk appointed by the president of the Alabama Association of Circuit Clerks.

(d) The AJCFA shall meet once a year. Additional meetings may be called by the AJCFA when needed.

Rule 2. ANNUAL REPORTING

The annual reporting period for compliance with these Rules is a period of one (1) year, with the first period beginning on the first day of January after an individual becomes an employee of the judicial system and continuing until the last day of December of each year.

Rule 3. COMPUTATION OF JUDICIAL BRANCH EDUCATION CREDIT

Credit for approved programs shall be awarded on the basis of one (1) credit for each hour actually spent in attendance at approved or accredited judicial system education activities. Partial credit can be earned in one-tenth hour increments. The number of credit hours shall include only instructional hours and will not include credit for introductory remarks, meal breaks, or business meetings.

Rule 4. DEFINED TERMS

Terms defined in this Section I or in any one of the following sections shall have the same meaning in all sections.

Rule 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

These Rules are effective January 1, 2011.

[Adopted 6-24-2010, eff. 1-1-2011.]

Note from the reporter of decisions: The order adopting the Rules for Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education, effective January 1, 2011, is published in that volume of the Alabama Reporter that contains Alabama cases from ___ So. 3d.