

## **Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education**

### **Rule 3.**

#### **CLE Requirement.**

Each attorney subject to these rules shall complete a minimum of 12 hours of approved continuing legal education ("CLE") annually, 1 hour of which shall be on the subject of ethics or professionalism.

This requirement may be satisfied either by attendance at an ASB-approved course or by completion of any other ASB-approved CLE activity.

[Adopted 3-20-1981; Amended 2-22-1983; Amended eff. 1-9-2004; Amended 2-26-2012, eff. 1-1-2013; Amended eff. 2-20-2018.]

#### **REGULATIONS**

- 3.1. A minimum of 6 credit hours of the 12 credit hours required annually must be earned through attendance at live ASB-approved programs.
- 3.2. This requirement may be satisfied through teaching an approved CLE activity. Presentations supported by thorough, high quality, readable, and carefully prepared written materials qualify for MCLE credit on the basis of six credits for each hour of presentation. Presentations accompanied by brief outlines, or not accompanied by substantial written materials, shall not satisfy this requirement. When a presentation is made by a panel, the credit will be divided equally among the panel members, unless the MCLE Commission is advised otherwise.
- 3.3. Repeat presentations shall satisfy this requirement to the extent of one-half the credits available for an initial presentation, provided each lawyer shall receive at least one credit for each hour of individual presentation or service on a panel.
- 3.4. This requirement may be satisfied through teaching a course in an ABA- or AALS-approved law school or any other law school approved by the MCLE Commission. The MCLE Commission will award six hours of MCLE credit for each hour of academic credit awarded by the law school for the course. For purposes of these rules, Miles College of Law and Birmingham School of Law are considered approved schools.

- 3.5. This requirement may be satisfied by authoring a significant research article that is accepted for publication in a national law journal. Whether an article is significant will be determined by the executive director. The MCLE Commission will award 12 hours of MCLE credit upon publication of the article.
- 3.6. This requirement may be satisfied through service as a bar examiner in Alabama or in any sister state. The MCLE Commission shall award 12 hours of MCLE credit annually for such service during a given year.
- 3.7. This requirement may be satisfied through formal enrollment and education of a postgraduate nature, either for credit or by audit, in an accredited law school. The MCLE Commission will award one credit for each credit hour so earned.
- 3.8. The MCLE Commission shall award two hours of MCLE credit to attorneys who attend the annual business meeting of the ASB.
- 3.9. This requirement may be satisfied through the provision of pro bono legal assistance exclusively through an approved pro bono provider. For purposes of this rule, an approved pro bono provider is a not-for-profit legal-aid organization, bar, or court sponsoring a pro bono program that is approved by the Alabama State Bar as set forth in Rule 6.6 of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct. The MCLE Commission shall award 1 hour of MCLE credit for every 6 hours of pro bono work completed, for a maximum of 3 MCLE credits in a 12-month period beginning October 1 and ending September 30. If less than 6 hours of pro bono work are completed between October 1 and September 30 of the reporting year, no MCLE credit shall be awarded. On October 1 of each year, the approved pro bono providers shall report the name of each attorney who met those requirements for the preceding year to the MCLE Commission, along with the number of credits awarded each attorney. Self-reporting shall not be permitted under this provision. Credit earned through this provision may not be used to complete a deficiency plan or to satisfy requirements for reinstatement, reactivation, or readmission.

[Amended 9-20-2018.]

**Note from the reporter of decisions:** The order adopting Regulation 2.7 to Rule 2 and amending Rule 2.C.2., Rule 3, Rule 5.B., Rule 6.A., and Rule 6.B., effective January 9, 2004, is published in that volume of *Alabama Reporter* that contains

Alabama cases from 862 So.2d.

**Note from the reporter of decisions:** The order amending the Alabama State Bar Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education is published in that volume of *Alabama Reporter* that contains Alabama cases from 84 So. 3d.

**Note from the reporter of decisions:** The order amending Regulation 2.7 and Regulation 4.1 and adopting Regulation 3.9 effective September 20, 2018, is published in that volume of *Alabama Reporter* that contains Alabama cases from \_\_\_\_ So. 3d.