

Prior Suggested Amendment to APR 11

After receiving a request/suggestion from the WSBA Diversity Committee, the MCLE Board is suggested an amendment to the Admission and Practice Rule (APR) 11 ethics requirement. The suggested amendment would have required that, of the six required ethics credits for licensed legal professionals each reporting period, one credit be required in each of these three topics: equity, inclusion, and the mitigation of both implicit and explicit bias; mental health and addiction; and the use of technology as it pertains to professional responsibility including how to maintain security.

On Sept. 27, 2019, MCLE Board member Todd Alberstone made a presentation about the suggested amendment to the WSBA Board of Governors. The WSBA Board of Governors discussed the suggested amendment and passed a motion (7-5 vote) stating they were not supporting the amendment, and instead are directing WSBA CLE department to offer free CLEs each year on each of the three topics.

NOTE: The WSBA CLE department operates independently from the regulatory MCLE Board and staff.

After some discussion at the MCLE Board meeting on Oct. 4, the MCLE Board voted (5-0, one Board member absent and one vacant position) to send the suggested amendment to the Washington Supreme Court for consideration and action.

At the Dec. 4, 2019, En Banc Administrative Conference, the Washington Supreme Court voted to reject the suggested amendment to APR 11 put forward by the MCLE Board. See [the letter from the Court](#) informing us of this decision.

Materials:

- [Suggested APR 11 Amendment](#)
- [Letter from WSBA Board of Governors](#)
- [Report and Preliminary Recommendation of the Washington Supreme Court Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board Re: Suggested Amendment to APR 11](#)
- [Public Comments](#)

Please note: The original request was suggested by the WSBA Diversity Committee working in partnership with and supported by the Washington Women Lawyers and eight minority bar associations: the Asian Bar Association of Washington, Cardozo Society of Washington State, Filipino Lawyers of Washington, Pierce County Minority Bar Association, Loren Miller Bar Association, Latina/Latino Bar Association of Washington, South Asian Bar Association of Washington, and QLaw.