

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Board of Governors

Kyle D. Sciuchetti, President

October 7, 2020

The Honorable Debra L. Stephens
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

The Honorable Charles W. Johnson
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929
Sent via email: supreme@courts.wa.gov

Dear Chief Justice Stephens and Justice Johnson:

On behalf of the WSBA Board of Governors I write in support of the MCLE Board's suggested amendment to Rule 11 of the Admission and Practice Rules (APR). On September 18, 2020, MCLE Board member Asia Wright presented the suggested amendment to the Board of Governors for review. The suggested amendment would require one ethics credit in the topic of equity, inclusion, and mitigation of bias. The Board of Governors voted 11-2 to support the suggested amendment.

WSBA believes in the importance of educating licensed legal professionals in the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition to supporting the rule change, in a continued display of WSBA's commitment to addressing inequities in the legal profession, the Board of Governors renewed its pledge that WSBA provide one hour of free CLE credit annually in the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The CLE credit will be offered in both live and recorded formats, which will let licensed legal professionals meet this requirement on their own time and at no cost to them.

This as an opportunity for the legal profession to take action that will demonstrate its commitment to address systemic inequities, as recently called for in statements made by the WSBA's immediate-past President Majumdar and the Washington Supreme Court. With the support of the Board of Governors, I respectfully urge the Court to adopt the suggested amendment.

Sincerely,



Kyle D. Sciuchetti
President, Washington State Bar Association

CC: Ayanna Colman, MCLE Board Chair
Russell Knight, MCLE BOG Liaison
Adelaine Shay, MCLE Staff Liaison
Terra Nevitt, WSBA Executive Director