

## Minutes

August 8, 2025

The meeting of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Board was called to order by **Board Member Darryl Colman** at 10:01 a.m. on Friday, August 8, 2025. The meeting was held via videoconference.

Board members in attendance:

**Katie Denmark (Chair)** *while in transit*

**Chris Bueter**

**Darryl Colman**

**Merri Hartse**

**Efrem Krisher**

**Henry Phillips**

Liaisons and Staff in attendance:

<b>Kevin Fay</b>	WSBA Board of Governors Liaison
<b>Adelaine Shay</b>	MCLE Board Staff Liaison
<b>Suzi Segulja</b>	MCLE Analyst
<b>Ransom Smith</b>	MCLE Analyst

Guest Speakers in attendance:

**Honorable Jill Sasser**, Commissioner – Clark County

**Chris Swanson**, Program Director – YMCA, Youth & Government Programs

### MCLE Board Members Acknowledgement

The MCLE Board, liaisons and staff members took a moment to thank Board members **Chris Bueter** and **Merri Hartse** for their contributions to the MCLE Board. Their terms ended and today was their last day as MCLE Board members.

### Review of Minutes

The MCLE Board reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the April 11, 2025, meeting.

## MCLE Board Goals - Overview

The Board provided a brief overview of the MCLE Board goals – including:

- Completion of at least two CLE course audit reviews by each Board member per year with a focus on accredited sponsor courses and courses with an Equity Ethics focus. (Accredited sponsor list to be sent to Board Members.)
- Continued outreach to diversify MCLE Board recruitment.
- Continued research on improving member accessibility, engagement and MCLE awareness.
- Continued research on the expansion of comity states.

## Comity Discussion

The MCLE Staff Liaison presented and reviewed, with the Board, the *Comity Research Report* and detailed its parameters. The Board discussed the report and requested additional information regarding the MCLE requirements for Washington's existing comity states (*i.e.*, Idaho, Oregon and Utah). The Board also expressed interest in ascertaining details on Colorado's MCLE comity program.

The MCLE Staff Liaison noted Washington's original comity agreement was based on the Boise Protocol. The MCLE Staff Liaison will provide the language of the Boise Protocol, MCLE requirement details for Idaho, Oregon and Utah as well as comity details for Colorado at the next MCLE Board meeting, scheduled for October 17, 2025.

## Other Goal Updates

The MCLE Staff Liaison:

- Reported the materials to increase MCLE awareness were sent to WSBA Communications for design formatting.
- Noted the recruitment of a public Board member is ongoing.
- Shared the research for free online CLE resources continues. Accredited sponsors were contacted. The aim is to have the online resources posted by the next MCLE Board meeting, scheduled for October 17, 2025.

## YMCA Mock Trial Program Update and Discussion

Guest speakers, **Honorable Jill Sasser**, Clark County Court Commissioner, and **Chris Swanson**, YMCA Youth & Government Programs Program Director, discussed the YMCA's current high school mock trial program and its positive impact on attorney volunteers as well as its youth participants. **Chris Swanson** noted, as long as resources and volunteers are available, the program will continue to grow. **Chris Swanson** surmised, awarding CLE credit to attorney volunteers, would provide an additional incentive resulting in increased attorney volunteer participation.

**Hon. Jill Sasser** emphasized the YMCA's continued commitment to the promotion of equity and diversity causes and reflected that the program attracts youth from diverse backgrounds. Youth participants overwhelmingly have a positive experience with the program. This favorable introduction to the practice

of law may influence them to pursue a future legal career – a benefit to the individual and ultimately, the legal profession.

**Hon. Jill Sasser** stated the volunteer attorneys (program “raters” and “judges”) must have a solid command of the applicable law and facts of the mock case. The volunteer attorneys conduct a significant amount of legal analysis. Raters scores are based on trial advocacy skills – not – someone’s acting skills.

**Hon. Jill Sasser** clarified, if the rule were amended, they are requesting that only the amount of time rating or judging (*e.g.*, approximately 2-3 hours) would be claimed for CLE credit by volunteer attorneys.

**Chris Swanson** will provide the Board with a program video sample as well as the link attorney volunteers use to register for the program.

The MCLE Board committed to exploring the suggested amendment. A subcommittee was formed by motion. **Efrem Krisher** and **Katie Denmark** agreed to assist with the subcommittee tasks – including, the proposal of draft language by the next Board Meeting for the suggested amendment.

#### Decision Matrix - Updated Draft Language

MCLE staff provided updated draft language for the Decision Matrix. The MCLE Board reviewed and discussed the revisions. The Board unanimously approved all proposed draft changes to the Decision Matrix.

#### MCLE Updates

- MCLE Certification
  - As of July 30, 2025, only one attorney remains MCLE non-compliant.
- MCLE Planning Materials
  - Materials to increase MCLE awareness were sent to WSBA Communications for design formatting.
- WSBA Licensure Pathways
  - Board Member, **Efrem Krisher**, to deliver full report at next MCLE Board Meeting, scheduled for October 17, 2025.
- Staff Meeting with the Court, July 9, 2025
  - Several WSBA regulatory staff went to the Temple of Justice for a meeting with members of the Supreme Court Clerk’s office, as well as some AOC staff and the Chief Justice. WSBA staff were tasked with proposing a schedule and potential format for annual reports and meetings between the Court and WSBA Court appointed Boards moving forward.
- FY 26 MCLE Board Meeting Schedule
  - October 17, 2025 (in-person)
  - January 9, 2026
  - April 17, 2026 (in-person)
  - June 5, 2026
  - August 14, 2026

- Budget
  - The MCLE Board Staff Liaison provided a brief overview of the current MCLE Budget Summary.

*(Public session ended at 11:40 a.m. Closed session started at 11:50 a.m.)*

#### Activity Review

The MCLE Board reviewed and decided by motion an activity accreditation. No listing of this motion is included to protect member confidentiality.

#### Petitions

The MCLE Board reviewed and decided by motion on an undue hardship petition. No listing of this motion is included to protect member confidentiality.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 PM. The next regularly scheduled MCLE Board meeting will be held in-person on October 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Adelaine Shay  
MCLE Board Staff Liaison