

Minutes
August 7, 2020

The meeting of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board was called to order by Vice Chair Ayanna Colman at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 7, 2020. This meeting was held via videoconference. Board members in attendance were:

Asia Wright, Chair
Ayanna Colman, Vice Chair
Chris Bueter
Merri Hartse
Melissa Skelton
Robert Malae
Todd Alberstone

Liaisons and Staff in attendance were:

Adelaine Shay	MCLE Manager/MCLE Board Staff Liaison
Robert Henry	Associate Director, Regulatory Services Department
Michael Tonkin	MCLE Analyst

Review of Minutes for May 5, July 9, and July 16, 2020

The Board reviewed the minutes from their May 5, 2020 meeting, as well as their July 9, 2020 special meeting, and July 16 2020 meeting with the Washington Supreme Court. The Board approved all minutes without change.

Public Comment on Suggested Amendment to APR 11

The MCLE Board heard public comment regarding the suggested amendment to APR 11.

Several licensed legal professionals spoke either in favor or against the amendment. In total, five licensed legal professionals left comment: four via videoconference audio and one via the videoconference chat function. One spoke in favor of the amendment, while the remaining four spoke in opposition to the amendment. Each speaker was allowed three (3) minutes to leave a comment, so that all speakers had ample and equal time to speak. The MCLE Board acknowledged each comment heard and thanked all attendees for their time.

Discussion: Suggested Amendment to APR 11

The MCLE Board discussed feedback received during the public comment session, and discussed the potential of changes to amendment before presenting to the WSBA Board of Governors at their September 17-18, 2020 meeting. MCLE Board voted unanimously to approve and present suggested amendment in its current format.

The Board discussed timeline and next steps, including updates required for materials that will be provided to the WSBA Board of Governors. MCLE Board directed MCLE staff to assist in updating materials.

Pro Bono Credit Discussion

MCLE Board discussed Pro Bono applications for MCLE credit, concerning credit eligibility for pro bono legal services rendered through an organization not recognized as a Qualified Legal Services Provider (QLSP). MCLE Board discussed the QLSP process, and stressed that licensed legal professionals should urge organizations they volunteer for to apply with the WSBA to become a recognized QLSP. MCLE Board directed staff to respond to queries regarding pro bono legal services with information regarding QLSP approval process.

MCLE Trends Discussion

The MCLE Board heard from MCLE Staff Liaison regarding trends with CLE applications, the application fee structures during COVID-19, and ongoing work with WSBA IT regarding a new MCLE online system. MCLE Board directed staff to explore application trends further, and to resume discussion at the October 2, 2020 MCLE Board meeting.

Course Audits

The MCLE Board heard from Board member Melissa Skelton on two course audits. The first CLE audit was of Littler Mendelson's 'False Claims Act Risks in the COVID-19 Era'. The second audit was of ProLawCLE's 'Congressional Investigations'.

MCLE Board 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

MCLE Board reviewed and approved the 2020-2021 meeting schedule.

MCLE Board Vice- Chair Nomination

MCLE Board discussed need for Vice Chair, as current Vice-Chair Ayanna Colman become MCLE Board Chair in October. MCLE Board voted unanimously to nominate Board member Todd Alberstone for position for the 2020-2021 meeting year. Todd accepted the nomination.

MCLE Hardship Petitions

The MCLE Board reviewed and decided by motion on five hardship petitions. No listing of these motions are included in order to protect member confidentiality.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the Board meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on October 2, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adelaine Shay".

Adelaine Shay
MCLE Board Staff Liaison