FAQ for Ethics – Equity Credit

Frequently asked questions on the new credit requirement in the topic of equity, inclusion, and the mitigation of both implicit and explicit bias in the legal profession and the practice of law:

What is the new “Equity…” credit?

“Equity…” credit is for activities in the topic of equity, inclusion, and the mitigation of both implicit and explicit bias in the legal profession and the practice of law.

Will the “Equity…” credit requirement apply to those in the 2020-2022 reporting period?

No, those in the 2020-2022 reporting period will not need to report the new ethics “equity…” requirement. The MCLE Board will track the new equity credit—as outlined in APR 11(c)(1)(ii) and APR 11(f)(2)—starting with the 2023-2025 MCLE reporting period. Licensed legal professionals in the 2023-2025 and subsequent MCLE reporting periods will be required to report and certify fulfillment of the equity credit requirement.

Can a CLE presented before September 1, 2022, qualify for the new equity credit?

No, the amendment to the ethics requirement goes into effect on September 1, 2022. Any courses held before the implementation date will be accredited under the rules in place at that time. For example, a course held on 8/1/2022 that focuses on diversity and antibias with respect to the practice of law or the legal system will be accredited as ethics, however, will not meet the new “equity…” credit requirement.

How will credits carryover for the new equity credit?

Equity credit earned in excess of the reporting period requirement may be carried over as ethics credit in accordance with APR 11(c)(7). A new equity credit must be earned in each reporting period.

"Equity..." credit in addition to the six ethics credits?

No, one of the six ethics credits must be on the "Equity..." topic. Legal professionals will not be compliant with the ethics requirement until they have at least one "Equity..." credit, even if they have six general ethics credits.