

**SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA**

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**ORDER**

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Acting in accordance with Article V, Sections 1 and 5 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the need to amend the Rules for Continuing Legal Education,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

1. Supreme Court Rule XXX, Rule 2 is hereby amended as follows:

**RULE 2. SCOPE AND EXEMPTIONS**

These Rules shall apply to every attorney licensed to practice law (hereafter "Member"), except for the following persons who shall be exempt from the requirements of these Rules:

- (1) All Members residing outside of the State and not engaged in the practice of law in Louisiana.
- (2) All Members who demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that meeting these requirements would work an undue hardship by reason of disability, sickness, or other clearly mitigating circumstances.
- (3) Active duty Members in the United States armed forces.
- (4) The Governor and Governor-elect of the State of Louisiana.
- (5) Members of the United States Congress.
- (6) All Members who have attained the age of sixty-five (65) years before January 1, 2026, except as provided for in Rule 3, Sections (f) and (g).
- (7) All Members who have attained the age of seventy-five (75) years, except as provided for in Rule 3, Sections (f) and (g).
- (8) All federal judges and magistrates.
- (9) Members licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana residing in the state but not engaged in the practice of law in Louisiana may qualify for restricted status and may be granted a

waiver of compliance with the educational requirements of these Rules. This exemption shall not apply to law clerks.

(10) All Members who are on emeritus status under Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XVIII, Section 3(B).

2. Supreme Court Rule XXX, Rule 3(a), (c), (d), (f), and (g) are hereby amended as follows:

**RULE 3. CLE REQUIREMENT**

(a) Each Member under the age of 65 shall attend, or complete an approved substitute for attendance, a minimum of twelve and one half (12.5) hours of approved CLE each calendar year. Each Member who has attained the age 65 on or after January 1, 2026, shall attend, or complete an approved substitute for attendance, a minimum of five (5) hours of approved CLE each calendar year until the Member attains the age of 75.

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(c) Of the hours of CLE required annually, not less than one (1) of such hours shall concern legal ethics, and not less than one (1) of such hours shall concern professionalism.

Legal ethics concerns the standard of professional conduct and responsibility required of a lawyer. It includes courses on professional responsibility and malpractice. It does not include such topics as attorneys' fees, client development, law office economics, and practice systems, except to the extent that professional responsibility is discussed in connection with these topics.

Professionalism concerns the knowledge and skill of the law faithfully employed in the service of client and public good, and entails what is more broadly expected of attorneys. It includes courses on the duties of attorneys; elimination of bias or discriminatory communication or conduct; equal access to justice; sensitivity to cultural and other differences when interacting with members of the public, judges, jurors, litigants, attorneys, and court personnel; attorney competency; and pro bono obligations.

Legal ethics sets forth the standards of conduct required of a lawyer; professionalism includes what is more broadly expected. The professionalism CLE requirement is distinct from, and in addition to, the legal ethics CLE requirement.

(d) Computer-based credits shall be offered as an approved substitute to in-person attendance at CLE activities. Computer-based credit shall consist of participation in technological transmissions, including live or prerecorded audio and/or audiovisual presentations and activities or other appropriate technology as approved by the MCLE Committee. For Members under the age of 65, credit for attendance at such computer-based courses shall be limited to four (4) hours

annually. For members who have attained the age of 65 on or after January 1, 2026, required CLE hours may be obtained through computer-based credits, except as provided for in Rule 3, Section (f).

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(f) Louisiana state court judges shall be required to earn a minimum of 5 hours of the CLE required annually from programs sponsored by the Louisiana Judicial College, starting on January 1 of the year following their election to judicial office. A Louisiana state court judge who is otherwise exempt from MCLE requirements pursuant to Rule 2(6) or (7) shall nonetheless be required to earn 5 hours of CLE annually from programs sponsored by the Louisiana Judicial College. The 5 hours of CLE required annually from programs sponsored by the Louisiana Judicial College under this subsection must (1) be obtained through in-person attendance and may not be satisfied through computer-based credits and (2) include at least one hour every other calendar year of training in domestic violence and trauma-informed courts.

(g) Of the hours of CLE required annually, Louisiana state court hearing officers, magistrates, and commissioners shall be required to earn a minimum of one hour of training in domestic violence and trauma-informed courts every other calendar year. A Louisiana state court hearing officer, magistrate, or commissioner who is otherwise exempt from MCLE requirements pursuant to Rule 2(6) or (7) shall nonetheless be required to complete at least one hour every other calendar year of training in domestic violence and trauma-informed courts.

3. Supreme Court Rule XXX, Rule 3, Regulation 3.1 is hereby amended as follows:

**Regulation 3.1.** To meet the minimum requirements of Rule 3, each Member must obtain the required CLE credits each calendar year.

4. Supreme Court Rule XXX, Rule 5, Regulation 5.1(a) is hereby amended as follows:

**Regulation 5.1.** (a) On or before December 1 of each calendar year, the MCLE Department shall email to each member a reminder of the compliance deadline and a link to view his or her transcript online. The report shall list his or her current record of compliance for that year.

(1) If the Preliminary Transcript is accurate and the Member is compliant, no further action is necessary.

(2) In the event a Member qualifies for an exemption under Rule 2, that Member must claim the appropriate exemption by completing an exemption form and returning it to the MCLE Committee no later

than January 31 of the following calendar year. Members claiming an exemption pursuant to Rule 2(1), (2), (3) and (9) must qualify for and claim an exemption annually for each year that the exemption is applicable to their MCLE status.

(3) If the Preliminary Transcript is not accurate, that Member must report to the MCLE Committee any outstanding records of compliance pursuant to the conditions set forth in these Rules no later than January 31 of the following calendar year.

(4) If the Member has not earned the required hours, that Member must comply with the hour requirement by no later than December 31 of that calendar year.

This Rule change shall become effective on January 1, 2026, and shall remain in full force and effect thereafter, until amended or changed through future Orders of this Court.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2025

FOR THE COURT:

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John L. Weimer, Chief Justice