

Minutes

June 16, 2023

The meeting of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board was called to order by Board Chair Todd Alberstone at 10:05 AM on Friday, June 16, 2023. The meeting was held via videoconference. Board members in attendance were:

Todd Alberstone, Chair
Efrem Krisher
Ayanna Coleman
Asia Wright
Christopher Bueter
Merri Hartse
Katie Denmark

Liaisons and Staff in attendance:

Renata Garcia	Chief Regulatory Counsel and Director, Regulatory Services Department
Bobby Henry	Associate Director, Regulatory Services Department
Ransom Smith	MCLE Analyst II
Suzi Segulja	MCLE Analyst

Review of Minutes

The MCLE Board reviewed the minutes from both its April 17, 2023 meeting and June 2, 2023 special meeting. The Board unanimously approved both sets of minutes without change.

Discussion: Accredited Sponsor Course Audits

MCLE Board member Katie Denmark presented an audit report for the National Academy of Continuing Legal Education (NACLE) course: *Cultural Awareness, Tips, and Tools for Today's Legal Practitioner*. MCLE Board member Asia Wright presented two audit reports both for Lawline courses: *Tax Matters in Estate Planning and Estate Administration: Don't Let the Grinch Steal Christmas* and *Ethically Growing Your Law Firm, Part 1: Designing a Law Firm Business Plan and Preparing for Growth*.

Discussion: Public Comment Received and Next Steps on the Suggested Amendments

The MCLE Board generally discussed written feedback received and collected from a survey seeking opinion on the suggested amendments. During this time, the Board provided an opportunity for any interested members of the public to give comment. No interested members of the public appeared for comment.

Having identified common concerns and criticisms, the Board concluded that creating new ethics credit types unnecessarily narrowed the suggested amendments and their intent. As a result, the Board discussed the possibility of converting the previous new ethics credit types into two standalone credit categories: Mental Health and Technology Security. With this revision, licensed legal professionals would be required to earn 1.00 credit of Mental Health and Technology Security credit each reporting period. Any excess credit in either category would count as Other credit in either the existing “Personal Development and Mental Health” or “Office Management” subcategories. The Board decided by motion to remove the ethics component from the two new credit types, adopt the above-described revision, and move forward with presenting the amendments to the Board of Governors. The motion passed with a 6-1 vote. The Board then directed MCLE staff to redraft the amendments which would be reviewed at a July 14, 2023 special meeting.

Discussion: MCLE Board Nominations

The MCLE Board reviewed applications received to fill two board vacancies for the next fiscal year. Having discussed the qualifications of all applicants, the Board decided by motion to nominate applicants Brendon Taga and Darryl Colman to fill the vacancies for the next fiscal year. In the same motion, applicant, Christine Hanley, was nominated as an alternate in the event a Board member resigns in the next fiscal year. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: MCLE Updates

MCLE staff provided general updates to the Board, including the number of licensed legal of professionals suspended for not completing their licensing and/or MCLE requirements, a notice sent to inform all licensed legal professionals in the 2022-2023 period of upcoming deadlines, the MCLE Board recruitment process, the state of the new MCLE online system and database, the scheduling of the Annual Supreme Court Meeting with the Board for September 6, 2023, and the closing of the Washington Supreme Court’s public comment period as it considers a suggested amendment regarding MCLE credit for law clerk tutors.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM. The next regularly scheduled MCLE Board meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday August 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Henry
Interim MCLE Board Staff Liaison