



Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

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**COUNSEL TO
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Michael P. Bowler, Esq.

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Opinion 12

Whether Teaching and Lecturing to Non-Lawyers Qualifies for Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

The Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (Commission) has received several requests from attorneys who teach and lecture on legal topics to non-lawyers. These attorneys have asked whether these lectures qualify for MCLE credit. The opinion of the Commission is that the activity does not qualify for MCLE credit unless the non-lawyers are law students attending law schools accredited by the American Bar Association.

To receive MCLE credit, attorneys must satisfy the delivery and content requirements of Practice Book §2-27A. Teaching and lecturing on legal topics to non-lawyers arguably may comply with Practice Book §2-27A(b)(4), which provides that attorneys may satisfy the delivery requirement of the MCLE rule by “teaching legal seminars and courses

The Commission concludes, however, that because the teaching and lecturing activity is targeted to non-lawyers, it fails to meet the content requirement of the rule and thus does not qualify for MCLE credit. See Practice Book §2-27A(c)(6). Specifically, the Commission concludes that legal seminars geared towards non-lawyers fail to “have significant intellectual or practical

content designed to increase or maintain the attorney’s professional competence and skills as a lawyer.” Practice Book §2-27A(c)(6)(A).¹

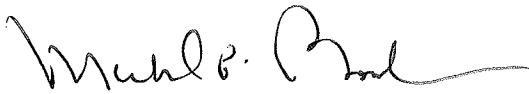
The Commission has adopted an FAQ to address this question:

Question:

Does legal teaching or lecturing to non-lawyers qualify for MCLE credit?

Answer:

No, unless the legal teaching or lecturing is to law students enrolled at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association. Lawyers may only receive MCLE credit for teaching legal courses and lecturing on legal matters to lawyers, or to law students enrolled at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association. Other legal teaching and lecturing does not satisfy the content requirement of the MCLE rule.



Michael P. Bowler
Counsel to the Commission

¹ The exception is when the seminar or course is targeted to law students who are enrolled in law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. Practice Book §2-27A(b)(5)-(6).