



Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

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COMMISSION:**
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Opinion 19

Whether CLE Taught by a Canadian Law Society Qualifies for Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

The Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (Commission) received a request whether an attorney may receive reciprocal MCLE credit for taking legal education courses taught by a Canadian law society. The requesting attorney is Authorized House Counsel in Connecticut and a member of a Canadian law society which requires 12 hours of CLE per year. In the request, the law society is described as equivalent to the "Bar of Ontario." The Commission determined that the legal education courses taught by the Canadian law society qualify for MCLE credit if they meet the content requirement of the MCLE rule.

To receive MCLE credit, an attorney must engage in an activity that meets the delivery and content requirements of the MCLE rule. Practice Book §2-27A(b)(1) provides that attorneys may satisfy the required hours of CLE through programs offered by "any other non-profit or for-profit legal education providers." Unlike most of Practice Book §2-27A(b)(1), this last section of the rule does not confine recognition to entities within the states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia. The activity described by the request meets the delivery requirement of the MCLE rule because it is offered by a law society which is a legal education

provider and equivalent to a bar association in the United States. Whether the particular program meets the three-part content requirement of Practice Book §2-27A(c)(6) is left to the individual attorney's good faith judgment.

Michael P. Bowler
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