



Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

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Opinion 20

Whether the 12 Hours of Classroom Instruction Taught by an Adjunct Law School Professor Must Contain 2 Hours of Ethics/Professionalism

The Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (Commission) received a request whether the 12 hours of classroom instruction by an adjunct law school professor must include 2 hours of ethics/professionalism. The opinion of the Commission is that the 12 hours of classroom instruction by an adjunct law school professor must include at least 2 hours of ethics/professionalism.

Practice Book §2-27A(b)(6) provides that an attorney may receive MCLE credit by serving as a part-time or adjunct faculty member at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association” and such credit shall be computed “at the rate of one hour for each hour of classroom construction.” Full-time law school faculty members at an ABA accredited law school are automatically credited with meeting the MCLE requirements without an hour by hour computation. See Practice Book §2-27A(b)(5).

The Commission concludes that since part-time or adjunct law school faculty members receive MCLE credit on an hour by hour basis, unlike full time law school faculty, the 12 hours should include 2 hours of ethics/professionalism instruction. Practice Book §2-27A(a) provides

that the “ethics and professionalism components may be integrated with other courses” so the part-time or adjunct faculty can teach the 2 hours of ethic/professionalism integrated throughout the entire course.

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