



Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

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Ethics/Professionalism Requirement

The Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (Commission) received several requests for guidance on the types of courses that qualify for the two hour “ethics/professionalism” requirement in Practice Book §2-27A(b)(2). The opinion of the Commission is first, that “ethics” means legal ethics. Educational activities regarding fields of ethics other than legal ethics do not qualify towards the “ethics/professionalism” requirement of the MCLE rule. Second, it is the Commission’s opinion that “ethics/professionalism” activities must be provided by approved deliverers of CLE and consistent with the content requirements found in Practice Book §2-27A(b)(2) and §2-27A(c)(6). Finally, the two hour “ethics/professionalism” requirement should be fulfilled by courses or portions of courses that are designed to maintain the integrity of the bar by ensuring that attorneys act with the highest degree of ethical and professional conduct.

Ethics/Professionalism may include courses or a segment within a course discussing:

- (1) The Rules of Professional Conduct in any jurisdiction, and the rules of practice concerning attorneys as set forth in Chapter 2 of the Connecticut Practice Book.

- (2) The professional obligations of lawyers to clients, the judicial system, third parties, the public, or other lawyers.
- (3) Trust account administration and law office management and practice.
- (4) Legal malpractice prevention.
- (5) Work/life balance activities, including mental health and wellness and substance abuse control.
- (6) Bias/diversity/inclusion.

Practice Book §2-27A(a) provides that the “ethics and professionalism components may be integrated with other courses,” which means that the ethics/professionalism content may be contained within a separate course on another topic, provided the total minimum of two hours of ethics/professionalism instruction time are met over the calendar year.

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