



## Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

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**December 21, 2016**

### **Opinion 4**

#### **Whether Serving as a an Attorney Advisor to a High School Mock Trial Team Qualifies as Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)**

The Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (Commission) received a request from an attorney who serves as an advisor to a high school mock trial team. The attorney asks whether this activity would qualify for MCLE credit. The opinion of the Commission is that serving as an attorney advisor to a high school mock trial competition does not qualify for MCLE credit.

To receive credit for complying with Practice Book §2-27A, attorneys must satisfy the delivery and content requirements of the rule. The Commission concludes that serving as an attorney advisor for a mock trial competition does not satisfy the content requirement of the rule. See Practice Book §2-27A(b).

Arguably, serving as an attorney advisor to a high school mock trial team satisfies a broad reading of the delivery requirement of the MCLE rule, if serving in such capacity is the equivalent of "teaching legal . . . courses." Practice Book §2-27A(b)(4). Even assuming that is the case, however, the Commission concludes that being an attorney advisor to a mock trial competition does not satisfy the content requirement of the MCLE rule.

The content requirement of the MCLE rule is set forth in Practice Book §2-27A(c)(6):

To be eligible for continuing legal education credit, the course or activity must: (A) have significant intellectual or practical content designed to increase or maintain the attorney's professional competence and skills as a lawyer; (B) constitute an organized program of learning dealing with matters directly related to legal subjects and the legal profession; and (C) be conducted by an individual group qualified by practical or academic experience.

All three factors must be met for an attorney to claim MCLE credit for the activity. The Commission concludes that serving as an attorney advisor to a high school mock trial team does not meet the first factor in that it lacks the intellectual or practical content to increase or maintain the attorney's professional competence and skills. This opinion is limited to the facts presented in this request involving service as an attorney advisor to a high school mock trial team.

Accordingly, because serving as an attorney advisor to a high school mock trial team does not qualify as MCLE, no amount of time to complete that activity can be counted towards MCLE compliance.



Michael P. Bowler  
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