

Minutes

January 19, 2024

The meeting of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board was called to order by Board Chair Efrem Krisher at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, January 19, 2024. The meeting was held via videoconference. Board members in attendance were:

Efrem Krisher, Chair
Christopher Bueter
Ayanna Coleman
Darryl Coleman
Katie Denmark
Merri Hartse

Liaisons and Staff in attendance:

Ransom Smith	MCLE Analyst
Adelaine Shay	MCLE Staff Liaison
Bobby Henry	RSD Associate Director
Kevin Fay	Board of Governors Liaison

Proposition to Expand Eligibility Criteria for Structured Mentoring Programs

Jessica Bejerea, DEI Committee Chair of the WSBA Taxation Section, delivered a presentation advocating for the expansion of mentoring credit eligibility to mentoring programs that include law student mentees who intend to become members of the bar and currently inactive members of the bar. The presentation underscored the professional development and diversity benefits of law student mentoring programs and the role that mentoring credit could play in incentivizing member participation in these programs. Such an expansion would require an amendment to the MCLE Board policy controlling standards for structured mentoring programs. As such, the Board unanimously formed a subcommittee (composed of Board members Katherine Denmark, Ayanna Colman, and Darryl Colman) to further investigate the viability and advisability of a policy amendment and tabled any motion to amend pending the report of the subcommittee to be presented at its next scheduled April 12, 2024, meeting.

TAXICAB Joint Administration Policy

The Board reviewed and discussed the most recent draft of the TAXICAB policy (Task Force Administering Xenial Involvement with Court Appointed Boards) which is a policy document designed to coordinate collaborative conduct and mutual understanding of mission among Court Appointed Boards. Currently

these Boards include the Access to Justice Board, Disciplinary Board, Limited License Legal Technician Board, Limited Practice Board, Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board, and the Practice of Law Board. The Board took a vote to endorse the current version of the policy which met unanimous approval.

Discussion: Sponsor Application Denial Review

The Board had before it a request to review a MCLE staff denial of a Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro all-staff anti-harassment training entitled Respect in the Workplace Training 2023 (Activity ID 2002340). After discussing APR 11(h)(1) intended audience standards, the Board unanimously upheld the denial decision.

MCLE Updates

The MCLE Staff Liaison provided updates of import to the Board including MCLE compliance and noncompliance percentages for the 2022-2023 reporting period, the status of the new MCLE online system including the development of a feature allowing for the claiming of Law Clerk Tutoring credit, the Washington Supreme Court publication for comment of the proposed Mental Health and Technology Security amendments to APR 11, and current MCLE budgetary overview.

MCLE Board Staff Liaison Decisions

The MCLE Board decided reviewed and approved by motion on 26 staff liaison undue hardship petition decisions. No further information is provided to protect member confidentiality.

MCLE Board Member Activity Application Review

The MCLE Board reviewed and decided by motion upon one member activity application. No further information is provided to protect member confidentiality.

MCLE Board Undue Hardship Petition Review

The MCLE Board reviewed and decided by motion on two petitions and one special circumstances review request made by the MCLE Staff Liaison. No further information is provided to protect member confidentiality.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM. The next regularly scheduled MCLE Board meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday April 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Adelaine Shay
MCLE Board Staff Liaison