

Minutes

May 17, 2024

The meeting of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board was called to order by Board Vice Chair Katie Denmark at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, May 17, 2024. The meeting was held via videoconference. Board members in attendance were:

Ayanna Coleman
Darryl Coleman
Katie Denmark
Merri Hartse
Brendon (joined at 10:19 am)

Liaisons and Staff in attendance:

Ransom Smith	MCLE Analyst
Adelaine Shay	MCLE Board Staff Liaison
Bobby Henry	RSD Associate Director

Review of Minutes

The MCLE Board reviewed the minutes from the April 12, 2024, meeting. The Board approved all minutes without change.

Audit Reports

Board member, Merri Hartse, presented her audit report of a Washington State Association for Justice accredited sponsor course by the name of *Sudden Wealth Syndrome* (1249090). This audit resulted in the revision of the accreditation for the course from 1.00 credit of Law & Legal credit to 1.00 credit of Other - Professional Development credit.

MCLE Board Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The MCLE Board reviewed and briefly discussed a proposed meeting schedule which was arranged to avoid conflict with any known holidays and days marked for a specific religious purpose. After review, the Board unanimously approved the schedule subject to revision if the preferences of non-voting Board members were in conflict.

Discussion on Changing Undue Hardship Matrix

The Board discussed generally the possibility of modifying certain aspects of its hardship decision matrix to foster more equitable outcomes in the petition decision-making process. Among these possible revisions were amending the definition of immediate family member to be more expansive (which was formerly set by RPC 1.8 subpart 1 which limits immediate family member to parent, child, sibling or spouse), adding parental leave as a qualifying hardship basis, and expanding military hardship to include recent deployment of an immediate family member. Following discussion on the merits of each change, the Board unanimously voted to expand the definition of immediate family member by substituting the prior definition for the more inclusive one found in Washington's Paid Family Medical Leave Act (RCW 50A.05.010 which defines immediate family member as "grandchild, grandparent, sibling, or spouse...and also includes any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home or where the relationship creates an expectation that the employee care for the person, and that individual depends on the employee for care..."). The Board also unanimously approved amending military leave to accommodate for members who recently had an immediate family member deploy or return from deployment. As to the topic of parental leave, the Board required further inquiry (including an analysis of jurisdictional policy throughout the country and the state of paid family leave nationwide) to determine if it should be a subject of hardship and tabled the issue for further discussion. As a concluding point, the Board requested that MCLE staff draft language for the policy changes and propose them at the next meeting.

MCLE Updates

The MCLE Staff Liaison provided updates of import to the Board including the timeline for Board recruitment to fill two upcoming vacancies, statistics regarding the number of suspended licensed legal professionals following the close of the 2022-2023 reporting period, the progress of postproduction work on the MCLE website, and the status of suggested amendments to APR 11 which would create new requirements in the areas of mental health and technology.

MCLE Board Staff Liaison Decisions

The MCLE Board decided reviewed and approved by motion on 5 staff liaison undue hardship petition decisions. No further information is provided to protect member confidentiality.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM. The next regularly scheduled MCLE Board meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Adelaine Shay
MCLE Board Staff Liaison