

**From:** Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board  
**To:** Washington State Licensed Legal Professionals & Community Members  
**Date:** January 9, 2026  
**RE: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE MCLE BOARD**

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### **Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board**

The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board (“MCLE Board”) consists of seven members: Darryl Colman (Chair), Katharine Denmark, Nicole Meyer, Efrem Krisher, Henry Phillips, Brendon Taga, and Justin Durueke.

### **Suggested Amendment**

The MCLE Board recommends an amendment to Admission and Practice Rule (APR) 11 that would allow for licensed legal professionals evaluating MCLE Board-approved high school and undergraduate competitions to earn MCLE credit.

The MCLE Board recommends the following suggested amendment to APR 11:

APR11 (d) MCLE Board (2) *Powers and Duties* (vii) Approve Mentoring Programs and High School/College-Level Mock Trial Programs. The MCLE Board shall approve mentoring programs and high school and college-level mock trial programs that meet requirements and standards established by the MCLE Board for the purposes of awarding MCLE credit under these rules.

APR11(e)(11) Judging, evaluating, or scoring participants in a high school or college-level mock trial or moot court program approved by the MCLE Board.

### **Factors & Information**

#### Professional Development

Participating in the mock trial program contributes to professional development by providing a way to engage with the Rules of Evidence and courtroom procedure, opportunities that are increasingly rare, especially for newer attorneys, due to the declining number of trials in Washington courts.<sup>1</sup> The program also contributes to professional development by connecting attorneys directly with judges and offering attorneys the opportunity to consider advocacy from the perspective of a judge.

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<sup>1</sup> See generally <https://www.courts.wa.gov/caseload/?fa=caseload.showArchived>



### Equity Goals

Offering this MCLE credit benefit promotes diversity of the legal profession through mock trial programs by assisting students who may have an interest in legal careers. Students without family or social ties to the legal profession can, through high school and college-level mock trial programs, learn about the legal profession, see themselves as potential future lawyers and jurists, and gain connections that may help them pursue a legal career. Offering MCLE credit for this supervision and instruction time may encourage lawyers to serve as volunteers for these important programs, thereby furthering WSBA's commitment to increasing access to justice.

### Civic Engagement Around the Rule of Law

For students, mock trials facilitate transparency and engagement with the law, create opportunities for education, and allows for youth to see themselves in the role of lawyer. This experience could lend itself to a better understanding of and trust in the rule of law. Providing MCLE credit dovetails with the WSBA [Ambassadors Program](#) mission as well the professional responsibilities as quoted (on the Ambassador Program's webpage) and below:

“[A] lawyer should further the public’s understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system because legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.”

—[RPC Preamble: A Lawyer’s Responsibilities](#)

“In general, the Washington State Bar Association strives to ... administer programs of legal education ... and promote understanding of and respect for our legal system and the law.”

—[General Rule 12.2](#)

### National Landscape

Washington would be joining at least 11 states currently awarding MCLE credit for judging, evaluating, or scoring high school mock trials, including, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, New York, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Delaware.



**Attachments**

1. [Admission and Practice Rule \(APR\) 11](#)
2. Draft APR 11 Redline
3. 2025 YMCA Mock Trial Impact Report



**SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE APR 11 (Redline)**

1 **TITLE**

2 **ADMISSION AND PRACTICE RULES (APR)**

3 **RULE 11. MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)**

4 **(a) – (d)(1) No Changes.**

5 **(2) Powers and Duties** (vii) Approve Mentoring Programs and High School/College-Level  
6 Mock Trial Programs. The MCLE Board shall approve mentoring programs, and high school  
7 and college-level mock trial programs that meet requirements and standards established by the  
8 MCLE Board for the purposes of awarding MCLE credit under these rules.

9 **(d)(3)– (e)(10) No Changes.**

10 APR11(e)(11) Judging, evaluating, or scoring participants in a high school or college-level  
11 mock trial or moot court program approved by the MCLE Board.

12 **(f)(1)-(k) No changes.**

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