



Information on Increased CLE Requirement

Anchorage, AK, January 25, 2024 - On January 17, 2024, the Alaska Supreme Court signed [SCO No. 2016](#) amending Bar Rules 65 and 66 to increase mandatory continuing legal education for active bar members to twelve CLE credit hours per year. Three of those twelve CLE credits must be ethics CLE. The rule will go into effect on January 1, 2025, and the first reporting deadline for the new rule will be February 1, 2026. SCO No. 2016 also expanded the activities that count for CLE credit.

The Alaska Bar Association is committed to continuing to provide free and low cost CLEs to make this transition as easy as possible for members. Currently, the Alaska Bar Association has 15 general credits and 8 ethics credits available to watch for free on our [video on demand library](#). The Alaska Bar Association also already has 8 free general credits and 3 free ethic credits [scheduled](#) from now until the end of May. See below for more information on free and low cost CLE opportunities.

A copy of SCO No. 2016 is available [here](#).

A copy of the Board's recommendation to the Supreme Court is available [here](#).

See below for some frequently asked questions about the rule proposal.

Frequently Asked Questions on the Increased CLE Requirement:

What is the new annual CLE credit requirement?

Effective January 1, 2025, All ACTIVE Alaska Bar members are required to report that the member has completed at least 12 CLE credits of which 3 must be ethics credits per year. Even if you were INACTIVE for most of the year but are ACTIVE at the end of a year (12/31) you must report completion of the minimum 12 CLE credits of which 3 must be ethics credits to be in compliance.

When does the new CLE credit requirement go into effect?

The rule goes into effect January 1, 2025. The first reporting period is January 1 – December 31, 2025. Members must report their MCLE before February 1, 2026.

Can I use ethics credits to satisfy the 9 general credit requirement?

Yes. Every active bar member must get a minimum of 3 ethics credits, but bar members can also use additional ethics credits to satisfy the rest of their CLE requirement.

What are the current ways to earn CLE credits?

The following activities are approved for credit:

1. Prepare for and teach approved CLE courses and participating in public service broadcasts on legal topics; credit will be granted for up to 2 hours of prep time for every 1 hour of teaching;
2. Technology delivered approved CLE courses such as Webinars and Video on Demand;
3. Writing published legal articles in any publication or articles in law reviews or specialized professional journals;

4. Attending substantive Section or Inn of Court meetings;
5. Participating as a faculty member in Youth Court;
6. Attending approved in-house CLE courses;
7. Attending approved continuing judicial education courses;
8. Attending approved CLE courses including local bar association programs and meetings of professional legal associations;
9. Participating as a mentor in a relationship with another member of the AK Bar for the purpose of training that other member in providing effective pro bono legal services;
10. Participating as a member of the AK Bar Law Examiners committee, the AK Bar Ethics committee, the AK Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Committee or any standing rules committees appointed by the AK Bar or AK Supreme Court; and
11. Participating as a member of an Area Discipline Division or an Area Fee Dispute Resolution Division.

What are the added ways to get CLE credit starting January 1, 2025?

The following additional activities are approved for credit starting January 1, 2025:

1. Participating as a volunteer in Youth Court or similar law-related educational youth activities.
2. Participating as a member of any special rules committees appointed by the Alaska Bar Association or the Alaska Supreme Court.

Why did the rule change?

Click [here](#) for the copy of the rule proposal the Board of Governors submitted to the Court for background information on why the rule changed.

Were members of the Alaska Bar notified that the Board was considering this rule proposal?

The Board discussed the potential increase in CLE requirements at 8 meetings that were publicized and open to the public. The Board published articles in the March 2022 and June 2023 Bar Rag and requested member comment. The Board also sent a memo to all section members requesting comment in August 2022. For copies of these materials and comments received go [here](#).

Can CLE credits I earn in 2024 be used in 2025?

Yes. A member may carry forward from the previous reporting period a maximum of 12 credits. To be carried forward, the credit hours must have been earned but not claimed for credit during the calendar year immediately preceding the current reporting period.

How can I earn free/low cost CLE credits?

The Alaska Bar Association is committed to continuing to provide free and low cost CLEs to make this transition as easy as possible for members. As of January 25, 2024, the Alaska Bar Association has 15 general credits and 8 ethics credits available to watch for free on our [video on demand library](#). The Alaska Bar Association also already has 8 free general credits and 3 free ethic credits [scheduled](#) from January 25, 2024 until the end of May 2024. The below opportunities are also great ways to receive free or low cost credits:

1. There are many AK Bar CLE offered for Free throughout the year as well as available on our Video-on-Demand catalog. Available at alaskabar.org under the CLE tab.

2. CLE course offered from other organizations/associations that have been approved for credit by a jurisdiction, other than Alaska, that requires continuing legal education is approved for credit in Alaska. All AK Bar credits are calculated on the 60 minute hour.
3. Many of the AK Bar section meetings host CLEs throughout the year during their section meetings. It is free to join the 1st section meeting and \$15 for each section afterwards.
4. Join a local bar association, which often offers CLEs throughout the year.
5. Teach a CLE, write a legal article or participate in an above committee or area discipline/fee dispute resolution division.
6. Volunteer in Youth Court or similar law-related educational youth activities.
7. Participate as a member of the AK Bar Law Examiners committee, the AK Bar Ethics committee, the AK Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Committee or any standing or special rules committees appointed by the AK Bar or AK Supreme Court.
8. Volunteer to proctor the Alaska Bar Exam to earn CLE vouchers with the Alaska Bar Association.

If you have more questions about MCLEs that are not directly related to this rule change visit our most commonly asked MCLE questions please visit our page [here](#).

If you have more questions about the rule change that were not answered here, please email us at info@alaskabar.org or call us at (907)272-7469.