



Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

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Opinion 5

Whether Lecturing to Middle School Students and Non-Attorney Adults on Law and Civics Qualifies as Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

The Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (Commission) received a request from a Judge of the Superior Court requesting an opinion on whether lecturing to middle school students and non-attorney adults on law and civics matters qualifies for MCLE credit. The opinion of the Commission is that the activity 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 while lecturing to middle school students and non-attorney adults on law and civics matters may satisfy the delivery requirement of the MCLE rule, Practice Book §2-27A(b), it does not satisfy the content requirement of the rule. See Practice Book §2-27A(c)(6).

As a general matter, lecturing on legal matters can satisfy the delivery requirement of the MCLE rule, which allows attorneys to take MCLE credit for “teaching legal seminars and courses.” Practice Book §2-27A(b)(4). Assuming that lecturing to middle school students and non-attorney adults on law and civics qualifies as “teaching legal seminars and courses,”

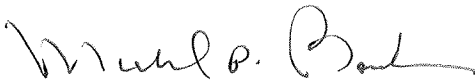
however, the Commission concludes that the activity does not satisfy the content requirement of the MCLE rule.

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. Certainly an attorney would be "qualified by practical or academic experience" to lecture on the law and civics in accordance with the third factor. The Commission concludes, however, that lecturing to middle school students and non-attorney adults on law and civics does not meet the first factor in that it lacks the "intellectual or practical content designed to increase or maintain the attorney's professional competence and skills." These lectures would be on the basics of law and civics and not of the content required to qualify for MCLE credit.¹

Accordingly, because lecturing to middle school students and non-attorney adults on law and civics 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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¹ There are not enough facts given in the request to determine whether the lectures would "constitute an organized program of learning" in accordance with the second factor of Practice Book §2-27A(c)(6).