

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 8:12 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: MCLE proposed changes

And another ☺

From: Joan Best [mailto:joanbest-lawyer@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 5:44 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Subject: MCLE proposed changes

From: Joan Best #7247

I strongly support the proposed new rules. In particular:

1. Yes to elimination of live CLE. I live and work in Port Townsend which makes it a major expense in time and money to attend most CLEs.
2. Yes to the removal of prerequisites to pro bono and other activities that get CLE credit. This last year I volunteered at three pro bono clinics for low income or vets sponsored by Jefferson-Clallam Pro Bono, an approved provider. When I tried to count these 6 hours toward my CLE credit it was not allowed because I had not taken a pro bono training, a prerequisite. A requirement I was unaware of and had never been advertised. I have taken many CLEs that are focused on pro bono topics such as one presented by NW Justice on preventing foreclosures and others. Because I had not taken an "approved" pro bono course I did not get these credits.
3. Yes to providing mentoring or legal writing, or mock trial, etc. as alternatives. I turn 80 tomorrow and have successfully practiced law in some form since 1976 in Washington and Hawaii. I have something of value to offer, as I imagine many other senior attorneys do who are semi-retired but wish to maintain active membership for the additional income and activity. These activities are more valuable to the bar and the public than my attending another repetitive CLE for the credit.

Thank you for considering the proposed changes. They will make life easier and will not, as suggested by the trial lawyers, reduce the value of the CLE requirements, but rather provide expanded opportunities to use our legal knowledge for the greater good and still keep up on new information. By the way, I get most of my really new information by subscribing to the appeal and supreme court case reports and by reviewing the legislative changes found on their web site every year.

Joan Best