

establishes additional information that must be included in an affidavit submitted with an application for permission to appear pro hac vice.

(NEW) Sec. 2-27A. Minimum Continuing Legal Education

(a) On an annual basis, each attorney admitted in Connecticut shall certify, on the registration form required by Section 2-27 (d), that the attorney has completed in the last calendar year no less than twelve credit hours of appropriate continuing legal education, at least two hours of which shall be in ethics/professionalism. The ethics and professionalism components may be integrated with other courses. This rule shall apply to all attorneys except the following:

(1) Judges and senior judges of the supreme, appellate or superior courts, judge trial referees, family support magistrates, family support magistrate referees, federal judges, federal magistrate judges, federal administrative law judges or federal bankruptcy judges;

(2) Attorneys who are disbarred, resigned pursuant to Section 2-52, on inactive status pursuant to Section 2-56 et seq., or retired pursuant to Sections 2-55 or 2-55A;

(3) Attorneys who are serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for more than six months in such year;

(4) Attorneys for the calendar year in which they are admitted;

(5) Attorneys who earn less than \$1000 in compensation for the provision of legal services in such year;

(6) Attorneys who, for good cause shown, have been granted temporary or permanent exempt status by the statewide grievance committee.

(b) Attorneys may satisfy the required hours of continuing education:

(1) By attending legal education courses provided by any local, state or special interest bar association in this state or regional or national bar associations recognized in this state or another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia (hereinafter referred to as “bar association”); any private or government legal employer; any court of this or any other state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia; any organization whose program or course has been reviewed and approved by any bar association or organization which has been established in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia to certify and approve continuing legal education courses; and any other non-profit or for-profit legal education providers, including law schools and other appropriate continuing legal education providers, and including courses remotely presented by video conference, webcasts, webinars, or the like by said providers.

(2) By self-study of appropriate programs or courses directly related to substantive or procedural law or related topics, including professional responsibility, legal ethics, or law office management and prepared by those continuing legal education providers in subsection (b) (1). Said self-study may include viewing and listening to all manner of communication, including, but not limited to, video or audio recordings or taking online legal courses. The selection of self-study courses or programs shall be consistent with the objective of this rule, which is to maintain and enhance the skill level, knowledge, ethics and competence of the attorney and shall comply with the minimum quality standards set forth in subsection (c) (6).

(3) By publishing articles in legal publications that that have as their primary goal the enhancement of competence in the legal profession, including, without limitation, substantive and procedural law, ethics, law practice management and professionalism.

(4) By teaching legal seminars and courses, including the participation on panel discussions as a speaker or moderator.

(5) By serving as a full-time faculty member at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association, in which case, such attorney will be credited with meeting the minimum continuing legal education requirements set forth herein.

(6) By serving as a part time or adjunct faculty member at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association, in which case, such attorney will be credited with meeting the minimum continuing legal education requirements set forth herein at the rate of one hour for each hour of classroom instruction.

(c) Credit Computation:

(1) Credit for any of the above activities shall be based on the actual instruction time, which may include lecture, panel discussion, and question and answer periods. Self-study credit shall be based on the reading time or running time of the selected materials or program.

(2) Credit for attorneys preparing for and presenting legal seminars, courses or programs shall be based on one hour of credit for each two hours of preparation. A maximum of six hours of credit may be credited for preparation of a single program. Credit for presentation shall be on an hour for hour basis. Credit may not be earned more than once for the same course given during a twelve month period.

(3) Credit for the writing and publication of articles shall be based on the actual drafting time required. Each article may be counted only one time for credit.

(4) Continuing legal education courses ordered pursuant to Section 2-37 (a) (5) or any court order of discipline shall not count as credit towards an attorney's obligation under this section.

(5) Attorneys may carry forward no more than two credit hours in excess of the current annual continuing legal education requirement to be applied to the following year's continuing legal education requirement.

(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 or group qualified by practical or academic experience.

(d) Attorneys shall retain records to prove compliance with this rule for a period of seven years.

(e) Violation of this section shall constitute misconduct.

(f) Unless it is determined that the violation of this section was wilful, a non-compliant attorney must be given at least sixty days to comply with this section before he or she is subject to any discipline.

(g) A minimum continuing legal education commission (the "commission") shall be established by the Judicial Branch and shall be composed of four superior court judges and four attorneys admitted to

practice in this state, all of whom shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or his or her designee and who shall serve without compensation. The charge of the commission will be to provide advice regarding the application and interpretation of this rule and to assist with its implementation including, but not limited to, the development of a list of frequently asked questions and other documents to assist the members of the bar to meet the requirements of this rule.

COMMENTARY: It is the intention of this rule to provide attorneys with relevant and useful continuing legal education covering the broadest spectrum of substantive, procedural, ethical and professional subject matter at the lowest cost reasonably feasible and with the least amount of supervision, structure and reporting requirements, which will aid in the development, enhancement and maintenance of the legal knowledge and skills of practicing attorneys and will facilitate the delivery of competent legal services to the public.

The rule also permits an attorney to design his or her own course of study. The law is constantly evolving and attorneys, like all other professionals, are expected to keep abreast of changes in the profession and the law if they are to provide competent representation.

Subsection (a) provides that Connecticut attorneys must complete twelve credit hours of continuing legal education per calendar year. Subsection (a) also lists those Connecticut attorneys, who are exempt from compliance, including, among others: judges, senior judges, attorneys serving in the military, new attorneys during the year in which they are admitted to practice, attorneys who earn less than \$1000 in

compensation for the provision of legal services in the subject year, and those who obtain an exempt status for good cause shown. The subsection also provides an exemption for attorneys who are disbarred, resigned, on inactive status due to disability, or are retired. The exemption for attorneys who earn less than \$1000 in compensation in a particular year is not intended to apply to attorneys who claim that they were not paid as a result of billed fees to a client. All compensation received for the provision of legal services, whether the result of billed fees or otherwise, must be counted. There is no exemption for attorneys who are suspended or on administrative suspension.

Subsection (d) requires an attorney to maintain adequate records of compliance. For continuing legal education courses, a certificate of attendance shall be sufficient proof of compliance. For self-study, a contemporaneous log identifying and describing the course listened to or watched and listing the date and time the course was taken, as well as a copy of the syllabus or outline of the course materials, if available, and, when appropriate, a certificate from the course provider, shall be sufficient proof of compliance. For any other form of continuing legal education, a file including a log of the time spent and drafts of the prepared material shall provide sufficient proof of compliance.

Sec. 3-9. Withdrawal of Appearance; Duration of Appearance

(a) An attorney or party whose appearance has been filed shall be deemed to have withdrawn such appearance upon [failure to file a written objection within ten days after written notice has been given or mailed to such attorney or party that a new appearance has been filed in place of the appearance of such attorney or party] the filing