

Illinois Supreme Court MCLE Requirements As Amended September 2011

Newly Admitted Attorneys, Did You Know . . .

...that the MCLE rules—adopted by the Illinois Supreme Court and administered by the MCLE Board of the Court—were amended in September 2011 and now establish a **MCLE Board 15-hour accredited MCLE requirement*** for newly admitted attorneys allowing you to choose from the following compliance options described S. Ct. Rule 793:

- (a) A 6-hour Accredited Basic Skills Course (such as the ISBA's 6 hour Basic Skills Course) **PLUS** 9 additional hours of MCLE credit of your choice (also available from ISBA at www.isba.org/cle); **OR**
- (b) Participation in a year-long Mentoring Program approved for 6 credit hours by the Illinois Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism http://www.ilscpc.org/mentoring/mentoring_index.htm **PLUS** 9 additional hours of MCLE credit of your choice; **OR**
- (c) A 6-hour Basic Skills Course **PLUS** Participation in a year-long Mentoring Program approved for 6 credit hours by the Illinois Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism **PLUS** 3 additional hours of MCLE credit of your choice?

...that this requirement for newly admitted attorneys must be completed by the last day of the month that occurs one year after your admission to practice in Illinois? And that you must certify compliance to the Supreme Court's MCLE Board within 31 days after your Basic Skills course year has ended (unless you qualify for an exemption)?

... that attorneys must report MCLE requirement compliance to the MCLE Board either online at mcleboard.org or via the certification form that will be mailed by the MCLE Board to the attorney (at the address on file with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission—ARDC)? And that failure to timely report to the MCLE Board will result in late fees and the risk of removal of your name from the Master Roll of Attorneys?

... that attorneys should retain their Certificates of Attendance for individual courses (including all courses taken to satisfy the 15-hour course requirement for newly admitted attorneys) in their files for three years after the end of the reporting period in case they are audited?

... that after completing the 15-hour course requirement for this one year period, your initial two year MCLE reporting period begins on the next July 1st, pursuant to the MCLE Board reporting schedule? And that the schedule is based on the first letter of your last name?
(See chart below)

... that you are exempt from the **General** CLE requirements during this one year period, *but* before your two year reporting period begins, you can earn and carry over up to 15** MCLE hours in excess of your newly admitted attorney requirement, including up to 6 hours of professional responsibility credit?

. . . that you can continue learning new legal skills at live ISBA CLE programs for only \$25 per program for your first three years of admission to the bar? And that you can visit ISBA.org for a full calendar of CLE programs?

**New Attorneys admitted after Dec. 31, 2005 and before Oct 1, 2011, who have not yet satisfied the new attorney requirements, have the option of completing a 15 hour Basic Skills course as detailed under the prior Rule 793(c) or satisfying the Newly Admitted Attorney requirements described above. S. Ct. Rule 793(h)*

*** New Attorneys admitted between Jan 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009 may carry over a maximum of 10 CLE hours, excluding professional responsibility hours. S. Ct. Rule 794(c)(2)(i)*

NEW ADMITTEE IL SUPREME COURT MCLE RULE REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

	Admitted November 2008	Admitted May 2009	Admitted November 2009	Admitted May 2010	Admitted November 2010	Admitted May 2011	Admitted November 2011
15-hour Course Requirement must be completed by:	Nov. 30, 2009	May 31 2010	Nov. 30, 2010	May 31, 2011	Nov. 30, 2011	May 31, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012
Certify Compliance to Supreme Court MCLE Board by:	Dec. 31, 2009	July 1, 2010	Dec. 31, 2010	July 1, 2011	Dec. 31, 2011	July 1, 2012	Dec. 31, 2012
General MCLE Carry Over Hours Possible To Earn (<i>Sup. Ct. Rule 794(c)(2)</i>)	10 Hours (except PMCLE Credit) earned between Basic Skills compliance and the first day of your first reporting period	10 Hours (except PMCLE Credit) earned between Basic Skills compliance and the first day of your first reporting period	15 Hours, including up to 6 hours PMCLE credit, earned between date of bar admission and the first day of your first reporting period	15 Hours, including up to 6 hours PMCLE credit, earned between date of bar admission and the first day of your first reporting period	15 Hours, including up to 6 hours PMCLE credit, earned between date of bar admission and the first day of your first reporting period	15 Hours, including up to 6 hours PMCLE credit, earned between date of bar admission and the first day of your first reporting period	15 Hours, including up to 6 hours PMCLE credit, earned between date of bar admission and the first day of your first reporting period
First 30 Hour MCLE reporting period for last names beginning with A – M:	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016
First MCLE reporting period for last names beginning with N – Z: (30 Hours unless noted)	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015	July 1, 2013 – June 30 2015

To find out more about IL Supreme Court MCLE requirements, visit the MCLE Board website at www.MCLEBoard.org, email the Board at MCLE@MCLEboard.org, or read the Illinois Supreme Court MCLE Board Newly-Admitted Attorney information sheet on the Board's website.