

IN THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MINNESOTA

In re Petition of the Minnesota
State Bar Association
for Amendment of Rules for
Continuing Legal Education
of Members of the Bar

Case # C2-84-2163

ORDER

WHEREAS the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) filed a Petition for Amendment to the Rules for Continuing Legal Education (Rules) creating additional requirements for continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys in ethics, professional responsibility and diversity training;

Whereas the Rules of the Board of Continuing Legal Education (Board) currently require that all Minnesota attorneys attend a minimum of 45 hours of CLE every three years in order to continue being licensed as attorneys in Minnesota;

Whereas the Report of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force for Gender Fairness in the Courts and the Report of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Racial Bias in the Judicial System found evidence of bias;

Whereas a separate minimum requirement for the study of ethics, professional responsibility and elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law will promote and encourage learning among members of the legal profession and that such learning will benefit the legal profession and improve the administration of justice;

Whereas courses in ethics and professional responsibility and courses in the elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law are necessary for the continuing legal education of members of the Bar of the State of Minnesota;

Whereas three hours of education devoted to the study of ethics or professional responsibility is a reasonable minimum number of hours to require within the 45 hour obligation;

Whereas two hours of education devoted to the elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law has been recommended by the MSBA and is

a reasonable minimum number of hours to require within the minimum 45 required CLE hours in each three year reporting period;

Whereas definitions and course approval criteria describing this requirement need to be articulated and incorporated into the Rules for the benefit of attorneys and course providers;

Whereas thoughtful and considered input from persons representing different segments of the legal community is required in order to develop clear definitions and standards;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that effective with the CLE reporting period commencing July 1, 1996, and ending June 30, 1999, and for all CLE reporting periods thereafter, attorneys licensed by the State of Minnesota are required to show evidence of completion of at least three hours of continuing legal education in courses on legal ethics and professional responsibility and at least two hours of continuing legal education in courses on the elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law, as a part of the existing 45 hour attorney continuing legal education obligation;

That the State Board of Continuing Legal Education will study and by March 30, 1996, will recommend to the Court amendments to the Rules incorporating definitions and course approval standards for the ethics and professional responsibility requirement;

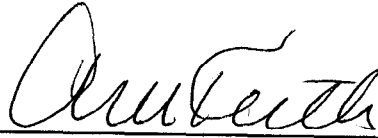
That the chairman of the State Board of Continuing Legal Education shall appoint a Special CLE Advisory Committee which is charged with the responsibility of studying and making recommendations with respect to amendments to the Rules of the Board of Continuing Legal Education which articulate definitions and course approval standards for the accreditation of courses on elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law;

That the composition of the Special CLE Advisory Committee will include a broad cross-section of persons in the legal community including representatives of the Board of Continuing Legal Education, the Minnesota State Bar Association, other bar associations, particularly minority and female bar associations, attorneys in different types of law practices, attorneys practicing law in non-metro areas of the state, continuing legal education providers, and the public;

That the chair of the Special CLE Advisory Committee will file with the Court an interim Committee report on January 30, 1996, to be followed by a final report of the Committee on May 31, 1996.

Upon receipt of the reports of the Board and of the Committee, the Court will issue such additional orders or set such hearings as it deems necessary.

SO ORDERED.



Chief Justice

Dated: September 15, 1995

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

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FILED