

Education Programs

By Tom Genung

The Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) Continuing Legal Education Department works with association sections, committees, and member attorneys to develop compelling continuing legal education programs. CBA members receive up to 50 percent off CLE seminars, and as an exclusive member benefit this year, members have access to six designated free two-credit CLE seminars.

MCLE in Connecticut

Practice Book Section 2-27A, Minimum Continuing Legal Education, outlines the requirements for annual continuing legal education for attorneys licensed to practice law in Connecticut. According to Section 2-27A, there are a number of ways in which an attorney may satisfy the required hours of continuing legal education, including:

- ❖ attending legal education courses
- ❖ self-study
- ❖ publishing articles in legal publications
- ❖ teaching legal seminars and courses
- ❖ serving as a full-time, adjunct, or part-time faculty at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association or approved by the state bar examining committee
- ❖ serving as a judge or coach for a moot court or mock trial course or competition that is part of the curriculum at, or sanctioned by, a law school accredited by the American Bar Association or approved by the state bar examining committee.¹

Education Programming

The Connecticut Bar Association and Connecticut Bar Institute, Inc. (CTBI) present more than 100 CLE seminars each bar year, while various sections provide CLE at their meetings throughout the year. In addition, a large number of recorded CLE seminars are available on-demand through our Education Portal, which can be accessed at ctbar.org/EducationPortal. Education programming provided by the CBA/CTBI complies with the letter and spirit of Practice Book Section 2-27A by having “significant intellectual or practical content designed to increase or maintain the attorney’s professional competence,” deals with “matters directly related to legal subjects and the legal profession,” and is presented by qualified and experienced attorneys.²

The CBA/CTBI is an accredited provider of New York State CLE. Attorneys seeking NY CLE credit for a CBA/CTBI CLE seminar or on-demand product must comply with attendance verification requirements in order to obtain a New York CLE Certificate of Attendance.



In-Person Seminars

In-person CLE seminars are the mainstay of CBA education programming. Highly qualified and experienced Connecticut attorneys present on the latest twists and turns of Connecticut law. CBA member attorneys share their knowledge and experiences with their colleagues to improve the profession, quality of legal practice, and delivery of legal service to their clients. Expertise, knowledge, civility, professionalism, and the tools for zealous advocacy are what keep pushing the CBA in-person CLE seminar bar to new heights.

For the past three years, the CBA has been a distinguished recipient of the *Connecticut Law Tribune’s* “Best of” awards in the categories of CLE provider and CLE provider—online. Last year, the CBA was inducted into the *Connecticut Law Tribune’s* Hall of Fame for having ranked top three CLE provider—online in at least three of the last four years. This notable history of recognition is a clear testament to the quality of the CBA’s member-based education programming.



CLE On-Demand

Many of our in-person CLE seminars are video recorded and made available online through the Education Portal as video or audio on-demand CLE seminars. On-demand seminars offer a high-quality legal education experience on Connecticut law similar to that which attorneys attending the in-person seminars experience. A complete catalogue of over 360 of our award-winning on-demand CLE seminars can be found at ctbar.org/EducationPortal.

Connecticut Legal Conference

Members that purchase a full-day registration at the annual Connecticut Legal Conference are able to earn up to six CLE credits for attending seminars at the conference. After the conference, full-day registrants will have access to on-demand versions of more than 15 conference seminars at no additional cost until the end of the calendar year in which the conference occurred. This is a great benefit, which allows members to obtain all of the MCLE credits they need for Connecticut from one event registration, and allows them cutting-edge access to many different areas of the law. Most of the seminars also qualify for New York CLE credit.

Free CLE

CBA membership has many education benefits, including discounts on CLE seminar and access to our complimentary on-demand archive, but the benefits do not stop there. This year, the CBA is offering six designated free, two-credit in-person CLE seminars, offered at different locations throughout the state. While the first two seminars occurred earlier in the fall, members should mark their calendars for December 10—What You Need to Know about IOLTA will be held in Bethel. The presenters will provide an overview of what lawyers need to know about IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer's Trust Account) and handling client funds. Seminar attendees will earn two Connecticut CLE ethics credits.

The other three free, two-credit in-person CLE seminars are being scheduled for spring 2020:

❖ Client Communications

Connecticut Bar Association, New Britain
2.0 CT CLE Credits (Ethics)

❖ Ethical Considerations in Residential Real Estate Closings

Torrington area
2.0 CT CLE Credits (Ethics)

❖ Choosing the Right Power of Attorney

Bridgeport area
2.0 CT CLE Credits (General)

The free CLE events are exclusive to CBA members and only Connecticut CLE credit will be provided. Seating is limited for the free CLE events, so register early.



For a complete listing of all upcoming seminars, visit ctbar.org/CLE.



CLE Credit Tracker

When members earn continuing legal education credit through CBA in-person or on-demand seminars, the seminar is automatically added to their CLE Credit Tracker, including the type and amount of credits provided. Additionally, members are sent certificates of completion for their completed seminars. Non-CBA credits can also be manually entered by members so that all records are in one place. The tracker is also searchable and printable to make record-keeping easy. Members can access their CLE Credit Tracker at ctbar.org/cletracker.

Become a Speaker

If you are interested in presenting a CLE seminar, complete the Presenting a CLE form at ctbar.org/PresentACLE. You may also contact the director of continuing legal education and section programming, Tom Genung, at CLE@ctbar.org. For more information on upcoming events and CLE seminars, visit ctbar.org/CLE.

Tom Genung is the CBA director of continuing legal education and section programming.

NOTES

1. Connecticut Practice Book Section 2-27A
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