

2006 Membership

Honorable Thomas M. Golden, *Chair*
Kelly H. Shuster, Esq., *Vice Chair*
Richard Antonelli, Esq.
Samuel Tyrone Cooper III, Esq.
Leonard Dubin, Esq.
Martin Greitzer, Esq.
Robert C. Heim, Esq.
Abraham C. Reich, Esq.
Stuart Savett, Esq.
Lawrence Tabas, Esq.

Staff

Daniel Levering, *Administrator*
Katey Buggy, *Office Manager*

Legal Authorization

Title 204 – Judicial System General Provisions Part V. Professional Ethics and Conduct [204 PA Code C. 82]
Pennsylvania Rules for Continuing Legal Education; No. 99 Supreme Court Rules Doc. No. 1

About the Board

The Continuing Legal Education Board administers the rules pertaining to continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys.

The board is comprised of ten active Pennsylvania attorneys. Terms are three years in length, and members may serve two consecutive terms.

Continuing

Legal

Education

Board

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Compliance Requirements and Deadlines

Annual CLE credit-hour requirements are met by completion of accredited courses in the areas of substantive law, practice and procedure, ethics, professionalism or substance abuse. Lawyers must complete twelve hours of CLE, including a minimum of one hour of ethics, professionalism or substance abuse before the compliance year deadline.

Compliance deadlines and CLE requirements are based on one of three annual compliance periods to which lawyers have been randomly assigned. The annual deadline dates are April 30, August 31 or December 31.

Board Organization

To best accomplish the requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Rules for Continuing Legal Education, the Continuing Legal Education Board is organized into three committees, each covering a major area of operations: Accreditation, Administration and Compliance. A description of each committee follows.

Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee has four members: Samuel T. Cooper III, Esq.; Honorable Thomas M. Golden; Leonard Dubin, Esq. and Stuart Savett, Esq. Its duties include oversight of the certification of providers and courses, CLE program standards, adequacy of course availability, and course and provider accreditation standards.

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee includes Honorable Thomas M. Golden; Kelly H. Shuster, Esq. and Samuel T. Cooper III, Esq. It handles matters involving staff, employee relations,

benefits, office equipment, office operations, fees and banking, and those enhancements to program administration necessary to ensure quality and efficiency. This committee also oversees the budget, annual independent audit and review of board operations.

Compliance Committee

Martin Greitzer, Esq.; Richard Antonelli, Esq. and Lawrence Tabas, Esq. comprise the Compliance Committee. This committee oversees attorney compliance; reviews requests for waivers, extensions and deferrals; reviews determination of lawyer noncompliance and makes recommendations to the board for action regarding these issues.

2006 Board Actions and Operations Highlights

The board held three meetings in 2006.

Distance Learning Teleconference Pilot Project

In October of 2006, the board began a two-year pilot project to review and explore the accreditation of teleconferences as an additional form of distance learning. This method of delivery allows lawyers the option of earning CLE credit through participation in pre-approved telephone seminars offered by accredited providers. Credits earned in this method are considered distance learning credit and count towards the four-hour distance learning cap per compliance period. All distance learning CLE reporting is conducted in a paperless fashion.

Automated System for Accredited Providers (ASAP)

ASAP is an internally-developed Internet software that allows for the paperless reporting of provider courses, course attendance and

course evaluations. It is used by 241 accredited CLE providers. In 2006 78 percent of credit hours were reported electronically.

Web Site Enhancements

In 2006 the board launched a new compliance assurance service for law firms. This service assists law firms and their CLE coordinators in achieving member compliance with CLE. Law Firm Services Online is an automated tool that offers firms the ability to access the compliance status of their lawyers on demand. The service, which is the first of its kind, is updated daily and is protected using secure passwords.

ORACLE

Two meetings of the international Organization of Regulatory Administrators for Continuing Legal Education (ORACLE) were held in 2006. Pennsylvania maintained a strong and active presence within the organization. Dan Levering continued to serve on ORACLE's Management and Technology Committees. The board's office manager, Katey Buggy, was nominated for secretary and served on the membership committee.

Technology Update

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) was deployed, which allows for highly secure remote access to PA CLE systems through an encrypted Internet connection.

The board held three successful disaster recovery exercises. In the event of disaster, it

should be able to adequately reestablish technical operations within eight hours.

Other Accomplishments

The annual providers conference was held in May 2006 and included an update on PA CLE news as well as sessions on disaster planning and recovery and distance learning methods.

Providers of CLE engage in a direct debit option for electronic payment. The number of providers using this method continues to grow, which benefits both providers and lawyers. This method eliminates the manual efforts of processing and mailing checks and increases the speed in which lawyers can review their credits online.

The board announced a regulation change to assist lawyers returning from military service with CLE requirements.

Attorney Compliance

Lawyer compliance rates with the CLE requirement remain extremely positive. Chart 3.6.1 on page 48 indicates the high percentage of lawyers who meet the requirements of the PA CLE rules.

Looking Ahead to 2007

The PA CLE network and systems infrastructure will be aligned to provide the highest levels of data and network security. PA CLE will play a significant role as host state for the ORACLE's 2007 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

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Attorney Compliance				
Compliance Group/ Year Ending	# Lawyers Subject to Requirements	# Lawyers Complying	# Lawyers Involuntarily Inactivated	Compliance Rates (%)
Group 1 (April)				
92-93	17,100	16,959	141	99.2
93-94	17,300	17,179	121	99.3
94-95	17,619	17,552	67	99.6
95-96	17,873	17,768	105	99.4
96-97	17,804	17,639	165	99.1
97-98	17,665	17,523	142	99.2
98-99	17,864	17,751	113	99.4
99-00	18,132	18,018	114	99.4
00-01	18,426	18,295	131	99.3
01-02	18,480	18,342	138	99.2
02-03	18,668	18,539	129	99.3
03-04	18,224	18,720	104	99.4
04-05	19,223	19,141	82	99.6
05-06	19,672	19,602	70	99.6
Group 2 (August)				
92-93	17,124	16,868	256	98.5
93-94	17,289	17,134	155	99.1
94-95	17,649	17,540	109	99.4
95-96	17,595	17,507	87	99.5
96-97	17,410	17,294	116	99.3
97-98	17,613	17,511	102	99.5
98-99	17,756	17,666	90	99.5
99-00	18,087	17,974	113	99.4
00-01	18,181	18,100	81	99.6
01-02	18,143	18,011	132	99.3
02-03	18,572	18,493	79	99.6
03-04	18,753	15,664	89	99.5
04-05	19,098	19,019	79	99.6
05-06	19,556	19,443	113	99.4
				continued...

Table 3.6.1

Attorney Compliance, continued				
Compliance Group/ Year Ending	# Lawyers Subject to Requirements	# Lawyers Complying	# Lawyers Involuntarily Inactivated	Compliance Rates (%)
Group 3 (December)				
92-93	17,269	16,936	333	98.1
93-94	17,474	17,414	60	99.7
94-95	17,679	17,574	105	99.4
95-96	17,542	17,430	112	99.4
96-97	17,582	17,456	126	99.3
97-98	17,781	17,647	134	99.2
98-99	17,968	17,865	103	99.4
99-00	18,220	18,113	107	99.4
00-01	18,361	18,227	134	99.3
01-02	18,479	18,366	113	99.4
02-03	18,625	18,527	98	99.5
03-04	18,887	18,792	95	99.5
04-05	19,443	19,347	96	99.5
05-06	19,882	19,797	85	99.6

Table 3.6.1, cont'd.