



American Bar Association

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Policies - State CLE/Pro Bono Rules

ABA Model Table of State Standards for Pro Emeritus Pro Bono CLE Credit for
 Rule 6.1 Ethics Rules Bono Programs Attorney Rules Reporting Doing Pro Bono

A number of states have implemented rules that permit attorneys who take pro bono cases to earn credit toward mandatory CLE requirements. The table below summarizes the status of these rules.

State	Action	MCLE*	For Pro Bono	Originator	Date	Date	Type of Policy	Pro Bono
AZ	Proposed, Rejected	15/yr (3)	3 hrs credit/yr	State Bar Legal Svcs Cmte	Approved 11/98	Rejected 4/28/00	Amendment to Sup. Ct Rule 45 (new subsection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ One pb case frm recognized/ approved pb program for low income persons ≠ Direct rep
NY	Adopted	24/2yrs (4) for all except admittees after 10/1/97 (32/first 2yrs (3))	1 credit/6 hrs, max 6 credits/2 yrs	Chief Judge of Court of Appeals (highest state court in NY)	Proposed 3/5/00 by Admin. Bd of Cts	Approved 5/00 by CLE Board, effective as of 1/1/00	Amendment to MCLE rules, i.e. subsection (j) of §1500.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Approved pb work ≠ ct assignmnts or CLE-accredited programs
TN	Adopted	15/yr (3)	1 hr credit/8 billable hrs	Commission on Continuing Legal Ed and Specialization	Added by order filed 12/10/98	Implemented 1/99	Added subsection (c) to Sup. Ct Rule 21 §4.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ ct apptmnts ≠ bar programs and LS orgs ≠ mediation svcs, state or fed
VT	Tried, Not Pursued	20/2 yrs (2)	6 credits/2 yrs, max [Direct credit]	Vermont Volunteer Lawyers Project	2/1/97 start	1/31/99 finish (2-yr pilot project)	Supreme Court Experimental Rule, Admin. Order 37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ rep and mentoring in certain areas only: family law; bankruptcy, consumer, housing; wills, estates. ≠ Only through VVLP ≠ Only for one county
WA	Adopted	45/3 yrs (6**)	6 hrs credit/2 hrs educ. + 4 hrs subsequent direct rep	WSBA Pro Bono and Legal Aid Cmte	2/98 approval by WSBA Bd of Govs	in process of enactment as of 8/00	Amendments to MCLE Rule, Regulations 103 & 104	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ to low-income clients through qualified legal services ≠ subsequent direct rep: provider or mentoring

* number in parentheses indicates hourly breakdown requirement for ethics and/or professional responsibility/professionalism, if any.

** indicates alternative courses acceptable (e.g. bias, office management, malpractice prevention or substance abuse).

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