CLE Board Approves PBA-driven Initiative to Expand Learning Options

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Continuing Legal Education Board has approved the PBA-crafted modification that expands the definition of live, in-person programming to include programming delivered via live webcast or other streaming technology during 2021.

Effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021, the CLE Board’s temporary policy recognizes live online programming by accredited distance learning providers (such as PBI) as live (non-capped) credit towards lawyers’ CLE requirement.

“Pennsylvania lawyers appreciate the high quality of programming that PBI offers through its live presentations,” said David E. Schwager, PBA president. “We applaud the board for expanding its policy to recognize webinars and other streaming platforms during the ongoing pandemic.”

For 2021, lawyers must earn 12 credits. Six credits can be earned via distance learning programming and six must be earned in live learning formats. This policy expands the definition for live learning to include in-person, non-virtual programs (such as live webinars) as well as virtual, synchronous programming.

The PBA also advocated for changes to benefit lawyers during the early days of the pandemic. Those PBA efforts with the CLE Board led to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court order of April 15, 2020, that allows lawyers to complete all of their 2020 CLE requirements by distance learning education.

To read the 2020-21 policy in its entirety, go to https://www.pacle.org/assets/pdfs/CLE-Distance-Learning-2021.pdf

To learn more about PBI’s webinars, go to https://www.pbi.org/catalog?category=Webcast