



April 30, 2020

Commission on Continuing Legal Education
Attn: Tracy Graves
450 High Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Re: Request temporary allowance for 12 hours of "distance learning"

Dear Ms. Graves:

May this letter find you all in good health during these unprecedented times. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our country and our way of life in the State of Mississippi. Social distancing and restrictive measures on business practices are leading us headfirst into an economic recession.

It is common for many our members to wait until the end of the CLE reporting year (July 31) to obtain their CLE credits for the year. This is primarily because our association and most of our underwriter members schedule their in-person annual conferences or training seminars for May - July each year. As I'm sure you are aware, the Land Title Association of Mississippi (LTAMS) was set to have its Annual Conference on May 14-15. However, due to COVID-19, we – like many other associations – have rescheduled our in-person Annual Conference for October 13-14, 2020. Likewise, the Mississippi Bar's Annual Convention has been canceled this year and many of our underwriter members have also canceled or are considering other options for their annual training seminars this summer.

Given the continued need for social distancing, LTAMS respectfully request the Commission on Continuing Legal Education temporarily allow attorneys to complete all 12-hours of their required CLE, including the 1-hour ethics/professionalism hour, through "distance learning" courses. As you can see from the attached **Exhibit A**, most other states have already taken steps to temporarily waive the in-person requirement.

Temporarily allowing our members and members of The Mississippi Bar to complete all 12-hours of CLE through distance learning would be in keeping with the social distancing requirements and would provide much needed piece of mind to our members.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Farmer", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kenneth D. Farmer
Executive Director
Land Title Association of Mississippi

EXHIBIT A

Arizona

The Supreme Court of the State of Arizona [issued an order](#) extending the [2019-2020 CLE](#) and reporting deadlines to December 30, 2020 (previously June 30 and September 15 respectively). Please note, the 2020-2021 cycle remains unchanged. For more information, please see the [official FAQ here](#).

California

The State Bar of California has issued [an order](#) extending the late CLE deadline to September 30, 2020 (previously June 30) for attorneys in Group 3 who have not yet completed their [requirement](#). Failure to complete the requirement by September 30, and pay any outstanding license fees, will result in being enrolled in Involuntary Inactive status.

Delaware

The Supreme Court of the State of Delaware [issued an order](#) temporarily waiving the 12-hour Live credit requirement for attorneys for the reporting cycles ending on December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021. All 24 CLE credits for those two-year reporting cycles may be satisfied by approved courses in any format including [On Demand](#). Previously, the Delaware Supreme Court [issued a similar order](#) waving the Live requirement for those who have not completed their 2019 requirement.

Florida

The Florida Bar issued [an order](#) extending [CLE reporting deadlines](#) for February, March, April and May 2020 to August 31, 2020. All other annual compliance deadlines remain the same.

Georgia

The Supreme Court of Georgia issued [an order](#) temporarily waiving the 6 hour in-person CLE requirement until the late CLE deadline on March 31, 2020. Georgia attorneys can now complete [their full 12 hour requirement](#) through self-study, in-house or online seminars. In addition, Georgia attorneys who are still completing their 2019 requirement have an additional grace period to complete, ending on April 30, 2020, however, if attorneys want to take advantage of the format waiver, online seminars should be taken on or before March 31.

Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court has issued [an order](#) extending the MCLE deadline by 90 days (to September 30) for attorneys due in 2020 (last name A-M) who are unable to complete their [requirement](#) by June 30. To receive this extension, attorneys must log in to the MCLE Board's [website](#) and report "Not Yet Completed" by July 31. No reason for the extension is required.

Indiana

The Indiana Supreme Court has issued [an order](#) temporarily waiving the [credit limitation for distance education](#) as follows: Attorneys with a CLE deadline on December 31, 2020 may complete all of their credits via [online courses](#). Attorneys with a deadline on or before December 31, 2022 may complete up to 24 credits via online courses.

Iowa

The Iowa Supreme Court has issued [an order](#) temporarily waiving the credit limitation for unmoderated courses. Iowa attorneys may complete any portion of their [requirement](#) as [On Demand courses](#) until further notice from the Iowa Supreme Court.

Kansas

The Supreme Court of the State of Kansas has [issued an order](#) granting an automatic extension for the 2019-2020 CLE and Reporting Deadlines to September 30, 2020 for attorneys unable to complete their requirement by June 30, 2020. They have also removed the credit limitation on pre-recorded CLE for this same period. Kansas attorneys can complete their entire 2019-2020 requirement via [On Demand CLE courses](#).

Kentucky

The Supreme Court of Kentucky has issued [an order](#) extending the 2019-2020 CLE deadline to June 30, 2021 (previously June 30, 2020), and combining the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 reporting cycles. All Kentucky attorneys should complete [a total of 24 credits, including 4 ethics](#), by June 30, 2021, and certify their compliance to the bar by August 10, 2021.

Louisiana

The Louisiana Supreme Court [has lifted](#) the limitation on self-study credits for attorneys who are delinquent on their 2019 requirement. These attorneys may now complete their entire [credit requirement](#) through [On Demand](#) courses, which must be earned and reported by May 15, 2020. Please note that the late penalty for filing will still be assessed. For mandatory continuing legal education compliance year 2020, the limitation on “self-study” credits (as defined in Rule 3(d) of Supreme Court Rule XXX) shall be increased to twelve and one half (12.5) hours annually.

Maine

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court [issued an Emergency Order suspending the in-person requirement for Maine Bar Rule 5 CLE programs](#) – programs on recognition and avoidance of harassment and discriminatory communication or conduct related to the practice of law. Maine attorneys may now complete this credit with live webinars, but are still not allowed to take the credit with on demand programming. The Maine Board of the Overseers of the Bar has also extended the 2018/2019 CLE reporting deadline to May 1, 2020. The Board also decided to forgo the imposition of late fees for the 2018/2019 reporting period.

Minnesota

The Supreme Court of Minnesota has issued [an order](#) temporarily waiving the credit limitation for On Demand courses. Minnesota attorneys in category 3 who are due to report their requirement on August 31, 2020 (for the 2017-2020 reporting year), may complete all of [their requirement](#) as [On Demand courses](#).

Missouri

The Supreme Court of Missouri has issued [an order](#) extending the 2020 [CLE deadline](#) to September 30, 2020 (previously June 30). The reporting deadline is extended to October 31, 2020 but MO will not assess any late fees for [courses](#) completed and reported on or before December 31, 2020.

Montana

The Supreme Court of Montana [Commission of Continuing Legal Education](#) will not assess any late fees as long as the [required credits](#) are completed and reported by May 15, 2020 (the usual deadline for completion is March 31). Montana attorneys can complete all of their credits online via a combination of [live webcasts and on-demand programs](#).

Nebraska

The Nebraska Supreme Court has issued an order temporarily removing the limit to distance learning courses. Attorneys can complete up to [ten credits of distance learning](#) for all [CLE requirements](#) due on or before January 20, 2021. This includes the 2020 requirement.

New Jersey

The Supreme Court of New Jersey issued [an order](#) temporarily relaxing the 12-hour live classroom credit requirement. Until further notice from the courts, New Jersey attorneys may fulfill [their entire CLE requirement](#) through approved courses offered in alternative verifiable learning formats.

New Mexico

The Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico [issued an order](#) extending the MCLE late reporting deadlines by 30 days.

New York

The New York CLE Board has issued [an order](#) temporarily allowing Newly Admitted Attorneys to [complete their live Skills requirement](#) via live webcast, teleconference, and video conference. This change is effective through June 30, 2020.

North Carolina

Note: Although North Carolina previously had a live CLE requirement, as of January 1, 2020, that requirement was rescinded. North Carolina attorneys can complete their entire [CLE requirement](#) via [On Demand](#) programming.

North Dakota

The North Dakota CLE Commission [has suspended](#) the credit limitation on Self-Study courses for North Dakota attorneys in Reporting Group 3 (attorneys who report in 2020). These attorneys may complete any portion of [their requirement](#) as [On-Demand courses](#).

Ohio

The Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education [has waived](#) the self-study cap for the 2018-2019 Late Compliance period and extended the deadline to June 29, 2020. Ohio attorneys who still need to finish their [CLE requirements](#) from the 2018-2019 compliance period can do so by watching [On-Demand programming](#).

Pennsylvania

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has issued two orders in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The [first order](#) extends the [CLE deadline](#) for Compliance Group 1 to August 31, 2020 (previously April 30). All other annual compliance deadlines remain the same. The [second order](#) waives the distance learning cap for all 2020 deadlines. Pennsylvania Attorneys may now

complete their [entire 2020 requirement](#) online via On-Demand, Webcast, or MP3 courses. All [distance learning courses](#) must be completed from an accredited provider such as Lawline.

South Carolina

The Supreme Court of South Carolina has [issued an order](#) stating that all attorneys may complete their [14 hour requirement](#) through online or telephonic programs for the 2019-2020 reporting year, which ends on April 15, 2020.

Tennessee

The Tennessee Supreme Court has [issued an order](#) temporarily waiving the 8-hour distance learning CLE limitation. Tennessee attorneys can now complete [any portion of the 2020 requirement](#) through approved distance learning until December 31, 2020. Attorneys seeking to reactivate or reinstate their license in 2020 can also take advantage of this temporary change. Previously, the Tennessee Supreme Court [issued a similar order](#) waiving the distance learning CLE limitation for the 2019 requirement.

Texas

The State Bar of Texas has [granted the following automatic extensions](#) for their [CLE requirement](#): (1) A 60 day extension for attorneys with March, April, or May 2020 compliance deadlines; (2) A 60 day extension for missed January or February 2020 compliance deadlines, to prevent the assessment of further fees; (3) A one month extension for attorneys subject to suspension for failure to comply with MCLE requirements in November or December 2019.

Utah

The Supreme Court Board of Continuing Education [issued an order](#) suspending all requirements for the in-person CLE requirement until June 30, 2020. Utah attorneys with a June 30, 2020 deadline can now [complete their required hours](#) through webinars and other self-study.

Vermont

The Vermont Supreme Court has issued [an order](#) temporary waiving of the 10-hour limitation on self-study CLE for the 2018-2020 reporting period. Vermont attorneys with an upcoming deadline on June 30, 2020, can complete their [entire requirement](#) through approved [self-study courses](#).

Virginia

The Supreme Court of Virginia has issued [an order](#) extending the 2020 MCLE deadline to midnight EST December 31, 2020 (usually October 31). The [required CLE hours](#) must be reported no later than 4:45 p.m. EST February 15, 2021

West Virginia

The West Virginia Mandatory CLE Commission [issued an order](#) suspending the live CLE requirement through June 30, 2020. West Virginia attorneys can now complete [their full 24 hour requirement](#) through video, audio, telephone seminars, computer-based training courses, or in-house instruction.

Wisconsin

The Supreme Court of Wisconsin [issued an order](#) temporarily increasing the number of on-demand CLE credits lawyers can take to [satisfy their requirement](#) through December 31, 2020.

Attorneys with a December 31, 2020 deadline and those working to make up a deficit from their December 31, 2019 deadline may now take 30 hours of on-demand programming, however, the legal ethics requirement needs be taken via live online programming or in-person courses.