





## Good, Better, Best

It has been just over eight weeks since I joined the bar and my time here so far has been a whirlwind. I had to learn all the CLE rules. (As an attorney admitted in Alabama for just three years, I only knew the rules that were necessary to keep me in good standing: Twelve hours per year, including one of ethics, all due by New Year's Eve.)

After I learned all the rules, I had to learn all the exceptions. (Just like evidence.)

My conclusion: Way too complicated.

The Solution: Simplify. (Priceless.)

As a litigator for 18 years, and even in my personal life, I have developed the attitude that I don't want to know about anything I don't actually need to know about.

So I have drafted a set of proposed revisions to the MCLE Rules, which the MCLE Commission is now reviewing. The basic paradigm won't change; you will still be required to complete 12 hours per year, including one hour of ethics, by New Year's Eve. But the proposed new rules, if approved by the Bar Commission and the court, will be simpler, more organized and easier to follow.

Of more immediate concern to you are the changes we have made to your annual CLE transcripts. You should be receiving them soon, if you have not already. From now on, each year, around the end of October, you will receive a **Preliminary CLE Status Report**, just to let you know how you stand before the end of the year. The simplified report will more closely reflect what you see when you view your transcript online; it will list the CLE courses you have taken through the end of the third quarter of the year (September 30). After the list of courses, it will tell you very clearly whether or not you are already CLE compliant. The **Annual Status Report** will be identical in format, but it will not be sent to you until the end of January. It just didn't seem to make sense to send you a transcript prior to January 31 when program sponsors of courses you may have taken as late as December 31 have 30 days to report your attendance to us. So, your Annual Status Report will reflect all reported courses that you have taken through December 31 and it, too, will tell you very clearly whether or not you are CLE compliant. You will have 30 days to notify us of any corrections that should be made to the report.

If you remain non-compliant after December 31, all of the old rules will still apply and you will have to file and complete a **Deficiency Plan**, and pay the required fees, before returning to good standing with the bar.

We hope the new status report formats will be easier for you to follow. If you have any comments or suggestions about them, please send us an e-mail at [cle@alabar.org](mailto:cle@alabar.org). We'll be happy to hear from you. ▲▼▲