

Information for Pro Bono CLE Hours

Purpose

Pro Bono CLE encourages the provision of pro bono legal services to low-income and indigent clients by permitting attorneys to earn a limited number of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) hours through qualifying pro bono representation.

Definitions

“CCLC” means Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency

“QLSP” means a qualified legal service provider such as a nonprofit legal aid organization, bar association, court-based program, accredit law school clinic, or other organization approved by the Supreme Court of Georgia or such entity as the Court may approve for this process.

Providers receiving Legal Services Corporation funding or that are funded by the Georgia Bar Foundation at the time of the provision of the legal services shall be presumptively approved as a QLSP.

Eligibility Criteria

CLE credit may be earned for uncompensated legal services provided through a program or project submitted as a CLE course by:

1. A QLSP approved by the Supreme Court of Georgia or such entity as the Court may approve for this process;
2. An organized bar association program or law school pro bono program approved by the Supreme Court of Georgia or such entity as the Court may approve for this process.

Credit Calculation

Attorneys may earn CLE credit at a ratio of one (1) CLE hour for every three (3) hours of qualifying pro bono legal services.

Annual Credit Maximum

An attorney may earn up to six (6) hours of CLE credit for the provision of pro bono legal service during each two-year cycle CLE reporting period.

Approved Providers and Application Process

Organizations that are not presumptively approved seeking QLSP status must apply to the Supreme Court of Georgia's Committee on Access to Justice, providing the following information:

- Organizational structure and fee policies;
- Funding sources;
- Client eligibility criteria
- Types of services provided
- The programs or projects for which an attorney may receive CLE credit for the provision of pro bono services;
- Names of Georgia licensed attorneys associated with the organization;
- Proof of professional liability insurance covering volunteer attorneys.

Pro Bono for CLE Course Approval, Reporting and Certification.

1. Upon completion, the QLSP shall submit the names, Bar numbers and the number of CLE hours for which an attorney is entitled to the CCLC via the CLE attendance portal.
2. Providers and attorneys must maintain documentation for three years.
3. QLSP seeking general information regarding CLE accreditation and reporting may find it at the link here.:

<https://www.gabar.org/programs/continuing-legal-education/cle-provider-information>

Limitations

1. Pro Bono CLE hours may not be applied to ethics or professionalism requirements
2. CLE hours may not be earned for work performed for family members, friends or any other organization that are not QLSPs.
3. Pro Bono mediation hours may qualify only if conducted through a mediation program approved by the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Dispute Resolution