



Commission
on Continuing
Legal Education

2024
Annual Report

April 2025



Commission on Continuing Legal Education

2024 Annual Report

Sharon L. Kennedy

CHIEF JUSTICE

Patrick F. Fischer

R. Patrick DeWine

Jennifer Brunner

Joseph T. Deters

Daniel R. Hawkins

Megan E. Shanahan

JUSTICES

Robert W. Horner, III

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

James P. Cappelli

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS

Gina White Palmer

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR,
LEGAL SERVICES

Dear Chief Justice and Justices
of the Supreme Court of Ohio,

This Court has entrusted the Commission on Continuing Legal Education with the meaningful task of ensuring that Ohio's attorneys and judges maintain a level of competency deserving of the public's trust. Specifically, the Commission is charged with administering and regulating compliance with the Court's rules governing continuing legal education, the stated purpose of which is to maintain and improve the quality of legal and judicial services in Ohio. The Commission is comprised of individual members, mostly of the legal community, and is supported by the Court's Office of Attorney Services.

This 2024 Annual Report of the Commission on Continuing Legal Education includes a detailed review of the Commission's work performed under Gov. Bar R. X of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio and Gov. Jud. R. IV of the Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio for calendar year 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Michel Jendretzky, Esq.

*Director, Attorney Services Division
Secretary to the Commission on Continuing Legal Education*

Commission

Under the authority of the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education administers the continuing legal education rules of Gov. Bar R. X and Gov. Jud. R. IV.

The Commission includes 19 members appointed by the Court, including 12 attorneys licensed to practice law in Ohio, representing each appellate district; one dean or member of a law school faculty engaged in full-time legal education in an Ohio law school; five judges; and one non-attorney. Commission members are appointed by Supreme Court justices to three-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. Commissioners serve as volunteers and are not compensated, except for travel costs allowed to Court appointees.

Chairperson

The Commission elected member Kevin Williams to serve as the Commission chairperson in 2024. Mr. Williams is with the Law Office of William A. Morse in Worthington.

Vice-Chairperson

The Commission elected member Robert Mann to serve as vice-chairperson in 2024. Mr. Mann is with the Columbus firm Mann & Carducci Co., LPA.

Director and Staff

Michel Jendretzky, Director of the Attorney Services Division, serves as Secretary to the Commission. Pursuant to CLE Reg. 201, the action of the Secretary shall constitute the action of the Commission, unless and until the Commission determines otherwise. The Secretary takes initial action on all applications for accreditation and maintains CLE records of all attorneys, judges, and magistrates. Further, the Secretary is authorized to review and decide requests for exemption from the CLE requirements. Staff of the Office of Attorney Services, consisting of 10 full-time positions, assists with the Commission's work.

2024 CLE Commission Roster

Hon. Marisa Cornachio

Willoughby Municipal Court
Judge

Hon. J. Gregory Howard

Butler County Court of Common Pleas
Judge

Hon. Kevin J. Kelley

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
Judge

Hon. Eric Allen Marks

Lucas County Court of Common Pleas
Judge

Hon. Sheryl Munson

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
Judge

Adrienne J. Roach

Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL
Attorney: First District

Magistrate Ebony Wreh

Dayton Municipal Court
Attorney: Second District

Anthony Will

Schultz Cox & Will
Attorney: Third District

James Sillery

Mollica Gall Sloan & Sillery Co. LPA
Attorney: Fourth District

Robert Mann, Vice-Chair

Mann & Carducci Co., LPA
Attorney: Fifth District

Sharon Harwood

Fisher-Titus Medical Center
Attorney: Sixth District

Patricia Wagner

Youngstown State University
Attorney: Seventh District

Douglas Bloom

Bloom Law Group, LLC
Attorney: Eighth District

Karin Wiest

Wayne County Volunteer GAL Program
Attorney: Ninth District

Kevin Williams, Chair

Law Office of William A. Morse
Attorney: Tenth District

Jacqueline M. O'Donnell

City of Eastlake
Attorney: Eleventh District

Bennett A. Manning

Twelfth District Court of Appeals
Attorney: Twelfth District

Professor Terri Enns

The Ohio State University College of Law
Law School Faculty

Dr. Carri L. Brown

Fairfield County Auditor's Office
Non-Attorney Member

Office of Attorney Services Staff

Michel Jendretzky, Esq.

Director, Attorney Services Division

Bradley Martinez, Esq.

Deputy Director, Attorney Services

Kirstyn Moyers

Manager, Attorney Services

MacLaren Roemer

Attorney Services Counsel

Penny Marchal

Attorney Services Coordinator

Shannon Scheid

Administrative Assistant, Attorney Services and Bar Admissions

Denise Spencer

Senior CLE & Attorney Services Specialist

Joshua Martin

CLE and Accommodations Specialist

Supreme Court Staff Recognized for their Contributions During 2024

Tammy White

*Executive Assistant to Chief Justice Kennedy
(formerly Manager, Attorney Services)*

Jennifer Smith

*Bar Admissions Specialist
(formerly Administrative Assistant, Attorney Services)*

Philip Wille, Esq.

Formerly Attorney Services Counsel

Heidi Beckman

Formerly Attorney Services Specialist



In 2024, the Commission met quarterly to review and act on matters brought before it, including proposed rule amendments, appeals of decisions denying accreditation, and enforcement of continuing legal education requirements.

Rule Amendments to Gov. Bar R. X and Gov. Jud. R. IV

During 2024, the Supreme Court adopted a rule change allowing up to 2 hours of CLE credit per year for General Assembly members, starting January 1, 2025.

The Commission also approved changes to its regulations, revising the categories of established sponsors and increasing the fees for established sponsor status.

Applications for Accreditation for CLE Activities

Pursuant to Gov. Bar R. X, Section 2 (B) (3), the Commission accredits continuing legal education programs and establishes procedures for accreditation. In 2024, the Commission received 29,007 applications for accreditation for continuing legal education activities. Of this, 28,444 activities (98%) were granted CLE accreditation; 342 activities were canceled, or the applications were withdrawn; 177 applications were rejected as incomplete; and 44 applications were denied accreditation.

Pursuant to Reg. 201.3, an applicant may appeal the Secretary's decision to deny accreditation within 30 days of the decision. The Commission received seven appeals of the Secretary's decision to deny. The Commission upheld the Secretary's decision on all.

A review of the activity formats for 2024 indicates the vast majority of CLE were offered through self-study activities.

The Commission received 23,650 applications for self-study activities. Of this, 23,164 applications (98%) were for on-demand and webcast activities and 486 (2%) were for live interactive webinars.

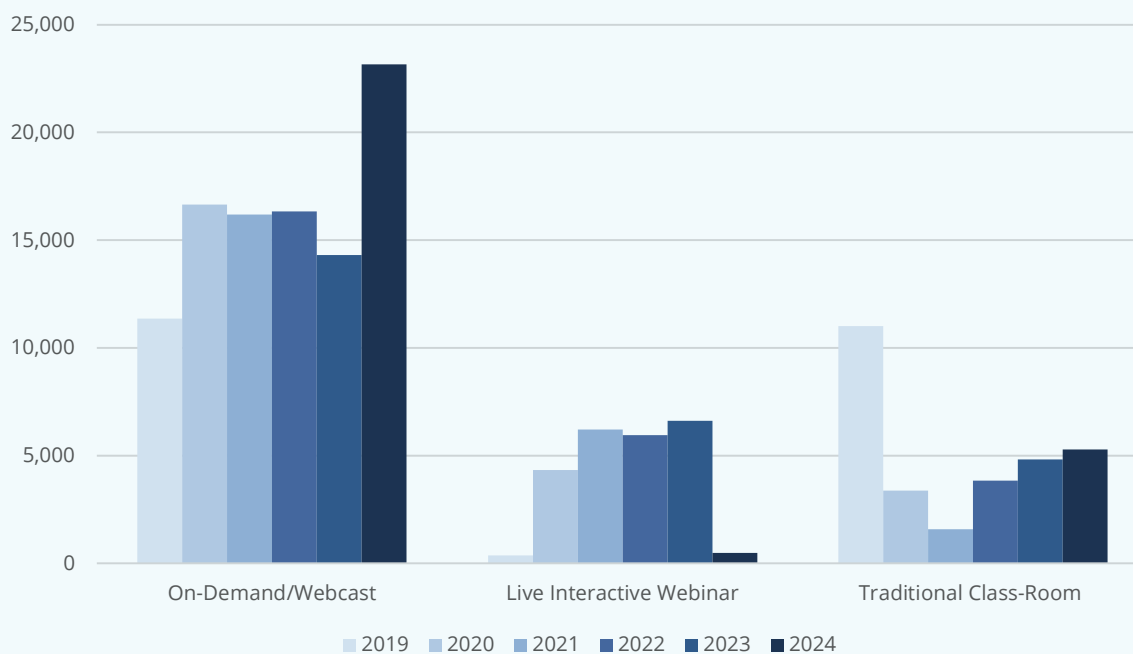
The remaining 5,357 applications included 5,278 applications for traditional in-person CLE activities, 19 applications for pro bono CLE activities in which attorneys provided pro bono services and received one hour of CLE credit for every six hours of pro bono services provided in Ohio, and 60 applications from attorneys applying for CLE credit for publishing a book or article related to the practice of law.

Exemptions from CLE Requirements

Pursuant to Gov. Bar R. X, Section 12, attorneys and judges may apply for an exemption of the CLE requirements if they are unable to comply with the requirements due to illness or disability, special circumstances, full-time military duty, or life-time appointment as a federal judge or magistrate.

In 2024, the Commission received 61 requests for exemptions. Of this total, the Commission granted 22 for illness and/or disability, 29 for full-time military duty, and 5 for special circumstances. One exemption was granted waiving the new lawyers training requirements for an attorney who had previously received full-time military duty exemptions, and 4 exemption requests were withdrawn, rejected, or denied.

CLE Delivery Formats



Late Compliance and Sanctions

Gov. Bar R. X, Section 18 (A), provides that an attorney or judge who fails to timely comply with the applicable requirements of Gov. Bar R. X or Gov. Jud. R. IV, but does so within 90 days of the December 31 deadline, shall be assessed a late fee in accordance with CLE Regulation 503.

In 2024, the Commission reviewed CLE compliance for 22,703 attorneys and judges (last names beginning with A-L) who were required to comply with CLE requirements for the 2022-2023 compliance period ending December 31, 2023. More than 96% (21,763) were in compliance.

The Commission issued Notices of Apparent Non-Compliance to the 940 attorneys and judges who appeared non-compliant. The notice instructed them that, to avoid sanction and suspension from the practice of law, any CLE deficiencies must be cured within 90 days of the reporting deadline and a late fee ranging from \$75 to \$300, depending on the severity of noncompliance, must be paid.

A total of 211 attorneys and judges (22%) provided evidence of having timely

completed the CLE requirements during the 2022-2023 compliance period or changed their attorney registration status so that the CLE requirements did not apply. A total of 589 attorneys and judges (63%) submitted a request for late compliance providing evidence that they cured the deficiencies by the late compliance deadlines. Of those who received a Notice of Apparent Noncompliance, 140 (15%) did not cure the CLE deficiencies by the late compliance deadlines and were subject to sanction or suspension from the practice of law.

On October 24, 2024, the Commission imposed monetary sanctions against 140 attorneys for noncompliance with the continuing legal education requirements for the 2022-2023 compliance period. Additionally, the Commission suspended 9 attorneys from the practice of law for failure to comply with the CLE requirements with the provisions of Gov. Bar R. X. Of the 9 attorneys who were suspended, none were new attorneys.



CLE Funds Collected

Pursuant to Reg. 901 (Schedule of Fees for Sponsors and Attorneys), the Commission collects application fees for sponsors applying for CLE accreditation and late fees for the late submission of attorney credits. Sponsors are assessed a \$25 fee for applying for accreditation for CLE activities and a \$100 fee for failure to submit the application timely. Attorneys are assessed a \$25 fee for failure to timely report credits or applying for accreditation more than 60 days after attending an out-of-state CLE activity. Pursuant to Reg. 503, attorneys and judges may be subject to late compliance fees or monetary sanctions for failure to comply with the CLE requirements based upon the number of hours deficient, ranging from \$75 to \$300.

In 2024, the Commission collected a total of \$427,465 for sponsor and attorney fees:

Sponsor Fees	\$219,425
Sponsor Late Fees	\$91,200
Attorney Late Compliance and Sanction Fees	\$111,265
Attorney Late Application and Credit Fees	\$5,575

2024 At-a-Glance

- On October 24, 2024, monetary sanctions were imposed against 140 attorneys and 9 attorneys were suspended from the practice of law for failure to comply with the CLE requirements. Of the 9 attorneys who were suspended, none were new attorneys.
- The Commission collected a total of \$427,465 in sponsor applications fees and attorney late compliance fees and sanctions.

Conclusion

The Commission furthers the Supreme Court's Constitutional duty to regulate the practice of law in Ohio by ensuring the bench and bar take the required CLE programs to remain educated and up to date on matters pertaining to the practice of law. The Commission continues to conduct a review of the rules and regulations to ensure its policies are fair and efficient.



PUBLISHED BY
THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO
Commission on Continuing Legal Education
April 2025