

Professional Development



Continuing Legal Education

Continuing legal education is one of The Missouri Bar's most important member services. In 2011, The Missouri Bar continued its tradition of providing high quality educational seminars and publications through its Continuing Legal Education Department (MoBarCLE), helping Missouri lawyers maintain their skills and learn about developments in the law. For more than 51 years, MoBarCLE has provided excellence in continuing legal education.



(clemail@mobar.org) to ask questions, register for programs, and order publications.

During 2011, the popularity of MoBarCLE's Season Pass program continued to grow, demonstrating that it is a truly affordable and convenient way for members to attend more seminars. MoBarCLE expanded the program to include the new Basic Season Pass. With the purchase of a Basic Season Pass (good for up to five courses), Limited Season Pass (good for up to 10 courses) or 12-month Unlimited Season Pass, members can attend many CLE programs at no charge. A new benefit provides all Season Pass holders a discount on select professionally contracted programs.

Volunteers Make It Possible

Throughout 2011, MoBarCLE produced seminars, publications, and course materials. More than 700 Missouri lawyers, judges, and law professors made these outstanding educational opportunities possible by volunteering to plan, write, lecture, moderate, and review MoBarCLE's programs and publications.

During the past several years, MoBarCLE has successfully encouraged members to "Join In – Sign Up" to participate in CLE activities as speakers, moderators, authors, and reviewers. During 2011, several programs and publications benefited from the contributions of Missouri lawyers who had not previously worked in CLE. Volunteer forms are available at all MoBarCLE programs, in the publications catalog, and at www.mobar.org. We encourage any member interested in volunteering to let us know so that we can maintain that information in our "volunteers" database for a future occasion.

Connecting With MoBarCLE

During 2011, MoBarCLE continued its commitment to making its activities and services as accessible as possible to Missouri lawyers. Changes to MoBarCLE's website (www.mobarCLE.org) made it easier for members to find programs and publications relevant to their practice, resulting in more members taking advantage of online registration, ordering, and payment features. MoBarCLE added a mobile version of its program listing and connected with members through updates on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. Lawyers continue to use MoBarCLE's toll-free customer service line (1-888-253-6013) and e-mail

Conferences

Multi-day MoBarCLE conferences have developed into important learning and networking opportunities for Missouri lawyers. In 2011, The Missouri Bar held its 16th annual Solo and Small Firm Conference. A record number attended the June 2011 conference in Osage Beach. The success of the conference is due to the efforts of many volunteers and generous sponsorship by several organizations, including The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Company.

The Family Law Section held its 11th annual Family Law Conference at Lake Ozark in August 2011. This two-and-a-half-day event is a successful fusion of CLE



and networking opportunities. In addition, the Labor & Employment Law Committee held its ninth annual symposium in Jefferson City. It was enthusiastically received by lawyers who practice on both sides of the aisle in the labor and employment law areas.

"Stepping Up & Stepping Out: The New Lawyer Experience" continued its success in training new lawyers and providing information to help bridge the gap between law school and the practice of law. The program, presented in Clayton and Kansas City by MoBarCLE and

the Young Lawyers' Section, included plenary as well as breakout sessions that provided nuts and bolts information for new and not-so-new lawyers, filling the need for practical, how-to-do-it information.

The "How To Series" also continued in 2011. It consisted of 12 interactive telephone seminars focusing on very basic legal skills to assist lawyers in gaining an edge in various areas of their practice.

Programming Statewide

One of the bar's CLE missions is to bring affordable programming to non-urban lawyers. MoBarCLE continues to offer video replays of popular programs at locations throughout Missouri. Online video seminars and downloadable audio podcasts are popular CLE options available from MoBarCLE. As in the past several years, MoBarCLE made extensive use of telephone seminars, webinars, and webcasts. Generally one or two hours long, these live interactive programs are very popular with Missouri lawyers. In addition to the convenience for our members, one of the primary benefits of telephone seminars, webinars, and webcasts is the ability to respond quickly with statewide programs on changes in legislation, rules, and case law that impact members and their clients.

In 2011, the telephone seminars offered to our members included one-hour programs co-sponsored with WebCredenza, Inc. MoBarCLE's joint venture with WebCredenza has proven to be a huge success and a real advantage for members wanting additional advanced programming in very specialized areas of the law. MoBarCLE's partnership with Periakotos Productions, L.L.C. brought members of The Missouri Bar a series of six high quality movie webcasts that focused on topics including ethics, professionalism, and courtroom skills.

Co-Sponsored Programs

MoBarCLE worked with The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Company to present risk management programs designed to make Missouri lawyers aware of ethical dilemmas and malpractice pitfalls in their practices. In 2011, as in the past 20 years, a special product of this partnership was a series of programs dealing with ethics, professionalism, and malpractice avoidance. These programs are aimed particularly at new lawyers subject to the "within-twelve-months" requirement of Rule 15.05(e).

MoBarCLE also worked with sections, committees, and other groups to produce seminars on a variety of subjects. These programs included the fourth annual Bernard Edelman DWI Law, Evidence, and Science Conference with the Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL); and a series of webinars on law practice management topics with the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel.

Program Statistics

More than 13,000 people attended more than 300 MoBarCLE events during 2011. MoBarCLE presented live and video replay programs in Cape Girardeau, Clayton, Columbia, Jefferson City, Kansas City, Lake Ozark, Osage Beach, Sikeston, Springfield, St. Charles, and St. Louis. MoBarCLE also presented video replays in Blue Springs, Branson, Hannibal, Joplin, Kirksville, Poplar Bluff, Rolla, St. Joseph, Union, and West Plains. The department produced more than 60 live seminars, 70 video replays, 140 telephone seminars, 17 institutes, five conferences, 39 webinars and two live webcasts.

MoBarCLE Publications

MoBarCLE's other major activity – publications – was a busy and changing area during 2011. The year saw the introduction of guidebooks, a new product line for MoBarCLE. Guidebooks are affordable, focused, and available in a choice of formats: softbound print, download, CD-ROM, or a combination of print and electronic formats. The availability of downloads was another 2011 innovation for MoBarCLE.



Online orders continued to increase as a percentage of orders for printed material. Half of print orders are now received through MoBarCLE's website.

MoBarCLE continued to make extensive and efficient use of desktop publishing, on-screen editing, and in-house publishing. All MoBarCLE print publications were printed in the bar's print shop. The continuing success of in-house publishing is an important factor in assuring high-quality educational tools for Missouri lawyers at affordable prices. The value of deskbooks has been enhanced by the development of forms disks for new books and for existing books as part of the supplementation process. And beginning in 2005, MoBarCLE began producing full-text, fully searchable CD-ROMs of newly published deskbooks.

The sales of electronic MoBarCLE deskbooks continued during 2011. The MoBarCLE "black books" are available electronically through Fastcase, LexisNexis, and Loislaw. Lawyers can use modern full-text searching capabilities to locate relevant text in deskbooks and hypertext links to primary law sources. MoBarCLE electronic publications are available on a subscription or a transactional basis, depending on the provider.

Publications Produced and Planned

MoBarCLE continued revisions of existing titles to maintain the MoBarCLE library. Fourth editions of *Administrative Law* and *Juvenile Law* were published. Two new deskbooks debuted: *Real Estate Financing, Liens and Foreclosures* and *Real Estate Fundamentals: Acquisition, Title, Interests, and Conveyancing*. And 2011 saw the publication of 20 new guidebooks. See the complete list at www.mobarcle.org.

During 2012, MoBarCLE is scheduled to publish several new guidebooks and new editions and supplements to deskbooks. The CLE Department will continue to concentrate on increasing the output of publications to maintain the value of MoBarCLE publications in law offices and law libraries around the state.

Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

Missouri Supreme Court Rule 15 requires Missouri Bar members to comply with minimum continuing legal education requirements. The MCLE reporting year is from July 1 to June 30. The deadline for lawyers to file the Annual Report of Compliance with The Missouri Bar is July 31.

During 2011, some 26,873 lawyers reported compliance with Rule 15 for the July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 reporting year. Missouri lawyers were able to file the Annual Report of Compliance electronically on The Missouri Bar website at www.mobar.org. More than 14,000 lawyers submitted annual reports electronically, 53 percent of the total MCLE reports filed in 2011.

Lawyers may determine their carryover credit hours from the preceding MCLE year and record credit hours for the current reporting year online by logging onto The Missouri Bar website at www.mobar.org under the “Members Only” section. After login is completed, click the “My MCLE” link.

Rule 15.05(a) requires lawyers actively practicing law in Missouri to report 15 hours of continuing legal education during each MCLE reporting year. Missouri lawyers also are required to obtain continuing legal education devoted exclusively to professionalism, ethics or malpractice prevention. There are two different professionalism, ethics

or malpractice prevention education requirements – one applicable to all lawyers practicing in Missouri and a separate requirement for lawyers newly admitted or reinstated to The Missouri Bar.

In 2009, the Supreme Court of Missouri adopted amendments to the professionalism, ethics and malpractice education requirements of Rule 15 at the request of the Board of Governors of The Missouri Bar. The Board of Governors submitted the amendments to the Court upon the recommendation of the bar’s Special Committee to Consider MCLE Ethics Requirement.

As amended, Rule 15.05(e) now requires lawyers admitted or reinstated to The Missouri Bar after June 30, 2009 to obtain two hours of professionalism, ethics and malpractice prevention education within 12 months of admission. Lawyers admitted or reinstated to The Missouri Bar prior to July 1, 2009 were required to obtain three hours of professionalism, ethics and malpractice prevention within 12 months of admission.

Supreme Court Rule 15.05(f) was amended to establish an annual requirement of two hours of education in professionalism, ethics and malpractice prevention credit per year rather than the previous requirement of three credit hours of professionalism, ethics or malpractice prevention every three years. The amendment to Rule 15.05 (f) became effective for the July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 reporting year.

The amendments did not change the content that satisfies the requirements of Rules 15.05 (e) and (f) as defined in Regulation 15.01.6-8.

Rule 15.06 (f) requires The Missouri Bar to notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline of the name of each lawyer not meeting the requirements of Rule 15. Every lawyer so reported is automatically suspended from the practice of law on the date the report is received by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Information about the MCLE requirement and downloadable forms are available on the dropdown box under the MCLE tab at www.mobar.org. All correspondence and inquiries should be directed to The Missouri Bar at 573-638-2233 or mcle@mobar.org.