



CLE Credit for Pro Bono Service

By Supreme Court Order, the Rules and Regulations for CLE in Pennsylvania were amended to permit attorneys the option of earning one (1) hour of CLE credit for every five (5) hours of pro bono service performed through an Accredited Provider of Pro Bono CLE. A maximum of three (3) credits earned in this manner may be applied to an attorney's annual compliance requirement. Credits must be completed and reported to the CLE Board through an Accredited Provider of Pro Bono CLE.

Information for Volunteer Attorneys

Only work completed through an Accredited Provider of Pro Bono CLE is eligible for CLE credit. Attorneys may not self-report CLE credit for pro bono legal work conducted on their own. Credit for pro bono work may be granted when services are performed for a person or persons of limited means or charitable organization when the service is assigned, verified, and reported through an Accredited Provider of Pro Bono CLE. When a case is referred through an approved provider, an "Affirmation of Service CLE Request Form" will be issued to the volunteer along with case materials. Upon completion of the case, attorneys shall return the Affirmation of Service CLE Request Form to the legal service provider for verification and reporting of CLE credits to the Board.

Information for Legal Service Providers

The CLE for Pro Bono Project is open to non-profit organizations that receive funding for their pro bono programs from the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Board (IOLTA) or the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN). Organizations with affiliations or referral agreements with PLAN and IOLTA may also be eligible. Interested providers should complete the Application for Approval as an Accredited Provider of Pro Bono CLE and return to the CLE Board at ngraham@pacle.org. Board staff will contact applicants regarding their application status and, if approved, schedule an Accredited Provider Orientation. This orientation provides an opportunity to establish administrative contacts, review guidelines and reporting procedures and answer any questions.

More information on PLAN and IOLTA Grants:

PA Legal Aid Network: Member Programs and Information: <https://palegalaid.net/statewide-network>

IOLTA: Grant and Eligibility Information: <https://www.paiolta.org/grants/>

Other Considerations

- CLE credits earned through pro bono work will apply as substantive credit to the CLE requirement.
- Pro Bono CLE credits earned in excess of the three-hour cap will not carry into subsequent compliance periods.
- Organizations who do not receive funding from IOLTA or PLAN, but maintain partnerships or referral relationship with IOLTA/PLAN grantees are also eligible for accreditation. Partnering organizations seeking accreditation must file an Affiliation Agreement along with their Application to become an Accredited Provider of Pro Bono CLE.

We are here to help. If you have any questions about Pennsylvania's CLE for Pro bono program, please contact PACLE Provider Coordinator: Nate Graham at 717-231-3230 or ngraham@pacle.org