

Supreme Court of Nevada  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



ROBIN SWEET  
Director and  
State Court Administrator

JOHN McCORMICK  
Assistant Court Administrator  
Judicial Programs and Services

RICHARD A. STEFANI  
Deputy Director  
Information Technology

VERISE V. CAMPBELL  
Deputy Director  
Foreclosure Mediation

November 18, 2015

The Honorable James Hardesty  
Nevada Supreme Court  
201 South Carson Street, Suite 250  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: ADKT 499, Public Comment

Dear Chief Justice Hardesty:

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) applauds the efforts of the Supreme Court and Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education (Board) to improve their certification and processing of attorney education, which, as you are well aware, includes the education of judicial officers.

The Judicial Education Unit of the AOC requests approval of training frequently for the credits from the Board and has some observations to provide for consideration by the Supreme Court or the Board.

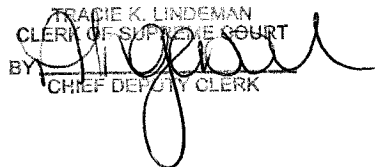
The business plan included in ADKT 499 specifies fees for accredited providers. Specifically, it proposes a \$500 annual fee, which the Judicial Education Unit has available in its budget and will submit electronically.

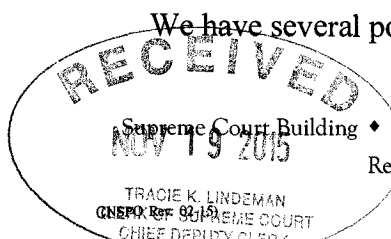
While automating the process to minimize paperwork for NVCLE, the recommendation is electronic reporting of course attendance, as well as course evaluation summaries within 30 days. Currently, the AOC sponsors a minimum of four judicial conferences from the end of January to the end of June almost every year. We will need additional resources to ensure compliance with this electronic reporting within 30 days or we will need to modify the traditional conference schedule for judges. As we often schedule other conferences, such as Specialty Courts or legal writing, in the fall time frame, the best solution may be improving our technology and an alternate solution would be additional staff, either of which will require additional funding.

We have several potential concerns that fall under the non-accredited provider category.

FILED

NOV 19 2015

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN  
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY   
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK



- The Board intends to enforce submissions for approval at least 30 days in advance so that attorneys can confirm they are attending an approved course.
  - Several times a year, we receive notices regarding a training opportunity, usually a webinar, which may be of interest to judges. That notice may be 2 days to 2 weeks before the training. The provider may not be accredited.
  - If the provider is not accredited, the provider likely will not submit a report of attendance nor course evaluations at all.
  - Would these no longer be considered for CLE? Would the Board consider allowing them to be submitted under the Judicial Education Unit as the approved provider?
- Presuming the AOC Judicial Education Unit is an approved provider, what allowances will be made to keep our approved courses off the CLE website? We have not historically allowed attorneys to attend our judicial conferences. Will we be required to allow them to attend as an approved provider?
- Noting our late receipt of information about CLE offerings previously or other out-of-state courses a judge might attend, will the judge now be responsible for the self-reporting of attendance and credit hours online within 30 days, as well as paying the \$25 application fee and the \$5 per credit hour cost. Is this option seen as the solution to the dilemma noted previously?
  - Another example of this situation might be a conference by the American Bar Association. While they may be considered non-profit, they charge attorneys for attending and so would not meet the requirement for waiving the fees.
  - Would the judges expect these fees to be reimbursable as part of the travel claims paid by the AOC? If these fees are reimbursed by the AOC as part of the travel claims, the funding available for judicial education will be less.

We recognize the Board is considering changes that are beneficial for all attorneys in Nevada and that our focus is on a subset of those attorneys who serve as judges. We will, of course, work with the Board during the transition to support their changes to the best of our abilities.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Sweet

/rls

cc: David Gordon, Judicial Education Manager