

# Goold Patterson

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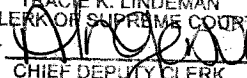
ADKT 0499

October 23, 2015

The Nevada Supreme Court  
The Nevada Supreme Court CLE Study Committee  
201 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

FILED

OCT 28 2015

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

Re: *Necessity of Defining CLE Program Criteria Due to Certification of Inappropriate Programs*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In connection with the ongoing review of CLE structure in Nevada, I respectfully request that the Court establish and promulgate the criteria by which a CLE program may be certified.

I had not thought that this was a controversial subject. In my 37 years of practice in Nevada, it seemed clear that CLE programs were intended to contain curriculae that would make the practitioner a better Nevada lawyer, such as legal principles applicable to Nevada cases, latest precedents, Nevada statutes and their interpretation by the courts, ethics, and practical pointers (ways to avoid ticking off a judge).

However, it appears to me that we have careened off the track here in Clark County, because the CLE Board has apparently certified a series of one-credit, lunch-hour programs that are clearly political rather than educational. These programs have been sponsored by the Las Vegas Federalist Society:

1. August 11, 2014: "Obama's Enforcer: Eric Holder's Justice Department" This program was given by John Fund, political journalist and Rush Limbaugh collaborator, and Hans A. van Spakovsky, a former Justice Department official whose career stalled due to his relentless campaign to disenfranchise poor and minority voters.

2. May 22, 2015: "Why ISIS Hates Islam and Everyone Else" This program, by David D. Forte, apparently delved into the history of Islam.

3. July 10, 2015: "Differences Between the Democratic and Republican Views of the Constitution" This program was given by Constitutional Law Professor Randy E. Barnett, who is known for his lengthy (and constantly shifting) proposals to amend the U.S. Constitution.

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4. October 23, 2015: "My Vision for the Future of Nevada" This program, by Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, was apparently a self-laudatory enumeration of actions Laxalt has taken since assuming his office, none of which appear to have practical application for the Nevada lawyer.

I don't think any of these programs were appropriate for CLE certification. They did not teach anyone how to practice law more competently in Nevada--they were political screeds. If we continue down this wrong path, we will soon be getting CLE-certified programs like "Meet Your Socialist Party Candidates" and "Fly-Fishing Techniques That Will Improve Your Legal Acumen."

I am unaware as to whether the criteria for Nevada CLE certification have been previously promulgated in writing, but I think that every Nevada lawyer should be advised in writing as to what those criteria are. If politics is fair game for Nevada CLE certification, that fact should be transparent--everybody ought to know.

For this reason I am respectfully requesting that this Court (a) identify the existing written criteria (if any), or promulgate written criteria, for CLE curriculum in Nevada, (b) append a copy of the written criteria to the Court's Order in this Case, and (c) provide for the distribution of the criteria to all Nevada lawyers (perhaps in the Nevada Bar Journal).

Very truly yours,



Barry S. Goold  
Nevada Bar No. 1058