

2015 Board of Directors

October 28, 2015

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RE: ADKT 0499, Hearing Scheduled on November 2, 2015

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The Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) is a 501(c)(6), non-profit, voluntary member organization with annual membership opportunities for attorneys, judges, legal assistants, legal secretaries, law students, and merchants. Established in 1923, CCBA traditionally has been an organization of attorneys focused on professional development and community service. The Purpose of the CCBA is to provide meaningful services to members; provide opportunities for collegiality and social interaction; and to perform outreach services to the community at large. The Clark County Bar Association does not receive grants nor any other form of outside funding, relying solely on voluntary dues membership and CLE and program revenue. The CCBA operates with two full time staff and the CLE committee, which generates and regulates its CLE content, is comprised entirely of volunteers.

All revenue generated by the CCBA's CLE seminars goes back into the day-today operations of the organization with the focus on supporting community and legal events. The CLE fees charged per credit hour have not increased since 2000 and are among the lowest of any CLE provider. The CCBA charges seminar attendees \$25 per credit hour for members and \$45 per credit hour for nonmembers. These fees collected provide the CCBA with revenue to help co-sponsor UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law Competitions, the Supreme Court Bar Admission reception, complimentary law student memberships, community service events, complimentary advertising for non-profit organizations in the CCBA's award winning monthly magazine, the *Communiqué*, and other benefits and services provided to other non-profit organizations. The proposed CLE Board's funding changes would drastically affect how the CCBA operates, as well as the services it provides to the legal community and to the community at large.

We are writing to express our concerns over the CLE Board's proposed funding changes for accredited providers, as outlined in the proposed business plan set forth, Attachment 3 to the September 15, 2015 Report of the Study Committee. The CCBA supports the recommended changes in large part, as a 'funding by producers' model makes sense as a benefit to attorneys in a required CLE state. However, the CCBA is concerned that, given its commitment to providing service to the legal community and its members by offering low per credit CLE, a fee per credit and arnual sponsor accreditation fee would certainly jeopardize the CCBA's ability to continue to offer low cost CLE to members of the legal community. This would consume a large portion of CCBA's budget, which would then jeopardize the programs and benefits to the legal community discussed above.

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We are requesting that an exemption be created under the new sponsor-based funding model for non-profit organizations which collect attendance fees from attorneys attending their seminars. One example might be a cap of, for example, \$50 per credit hour for a non-profit organization which collects fees for attendees to its CLE seminars. This would preserve the CCBA's goal of providing substantial benefits to its members in the form of low cost CLEs, while also preserving the CCBA's ability to continue to fund important community service events from the minimal revenue generated by the fees. The CCBA operates on a very tight budget with a virtual break-even goal at year end. The proposed changes, without some exemption for organizations like the CCBA, would impact that budget.

In summary, the CCBA respectfully requests the proposed annual fee, as well as the per person credit fee be waived or substantially reduced for non-profit accredited sponsors who charge for CLE seminars. The CCBA appreciated your consideration of this Request.

Sincerely, CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Damon K. Dias, Esq. Dias Law Group, Ltd. President 2015