

Chief Justice Mark Gibbons
Nevada Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV. 89701

November 21, 2019

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Dear Chief Justice:

I write in support of the passage of ADKT 0549 which seeks to eliminate Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 214(1)(d) that exempts active members of the State Bar of Nevada who have attained the age of 70 years from meeting mandatory continuing legal education credit requirements.

It is the mission of the State Bar of Nevada to govern the legal profession, to serve its members and to protect the public interest. Mandatory continuing legal education helps to fulfill this mission.

Mandatory continuing education rules were first enacted by the Court in 1981. Since the rules went into effect, the trends in aging in the profession have revealed a growing median age for lawyers actively engaged in the practice of law from age 46 in 2010 to age 50 in 2018. Of those active members age 70 or older, 18% are over the age of 80.

Lawyers have a professional responsibility to ensure that their legal knowledge and skills continue to be relevant and comprehensive in order to respond to client expectations and remain compliant with the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct. This helps to ensure that the public interest is protected.

In 2017, the Court recognized the importance of education pertaining to attorney wellness when granting the Petition of the State Bar of Nevada requiring annual CLE in substance abuse, addictive disorders, and/or mental health issues that impair professional competence. Such issues which impact attorney wellness do not cease to exist upon an active attorney attaining the age of 70.

The mission of the State Bar of Nevada does not end when active bar members attain the age of 70. In order to help ensure that the mission is fulfilled the age 70 exemption should be eliminated.

Respectfully,



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FILED

NOV 22 2019

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19-47960