

2003 Membership

Ruth E. Ganister, Esq., *Chair*
Carmen P. Belefonte, Esq., *Vice Chair*
Rosa Copeland Miller, Esq.
Robert S. Grigsby, Esq.
Alan C. Kessler, Esq.
John F. Mizner, Esq.
Arthur L. Piccone, Esq.
Paul Michael Pohl, Esq.
Richard A. Sprague, Esq.
Sandor Yelen, Esq.

Staff:

Daniel Levering, *Administrator*
Katey Buggy, *Office Manager*

Legal Authorization:

Title 204 - Judicial System General Provisions Part V. Professional Ethics and Conduct [204 PA Code C. 82]
Pennsylvania Rules for Continuing Legal Education; No. 99 Supreme Court Rules Doc. No. 1

About the Board

The Continuing Legal Education Board administers the rules pertaining to continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys.

The board is comprised of ten active Pennsylvania attorneys. Terms are three years in length, and members may serve two consecutive terms.

Pennsylvania

Continuing

Legal

Education

Board

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Compliance Requirements and Deadlines

Annual CLE credit-hour requirements are met by completion of accredited courses in the areas of substantive law, practice and procedure, ethics, professionalism or substance abuse. Lawyers must complete twelve hours of CLE, including a minimum of one hour of ethics, professionalism or substance abuse before the compliance year deadline.

Compliance deadlines and CLE requirements are based on one of three annual compliance periods to which lawyers have been assigned by random selection of lawyer identification numbers. The annual deadline dates are April 30, August 31 or December 31.

Board Organization

To best accomplish the requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Rules for Continuing Legal Education, the Continuing Legal Education Board is organized into four committees, each covering a major area of operations: Accreditation, Administration, Audit and Compliance. A description of each committee follows.

Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee has four members: Carmen P. Belefonte, Esq., chair; Arthur L. Piccone, Esq.; Ruth E. Ganister, Esq.; and Sandor Yelen, Esq. Its duties include oversight of the certification of providers and courses, CLE program standards, adequacy of course availability, and course and provider accreditation standards.

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee includes Ruth E. Ganister, Esq., chair; Carmen P. Belefonte, Esq.; and Paul Michael Pohl, Esq. It

handles matters involving staff, employee relations, benefits, office equipment, office operations, fees and banking, and those enhancements to program administration necessary to ensure quality and efficiency.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has three members: Paul Michael Pohl, Esq., chair; Carmen P. Belefonte, Esq.; and Ruth E. Ganister, Esq. It oversees the budget, annual independent audit and audit of board operations. It also monitors the board's financial software, operating procedures and reporting and is the liaison between the board and the board's accountants, Boyer & Ritter.

Compliance Committee

John F. Mizner, Esq., chair; Rosa Copeland Miller, Esq.; Robert S. Grigsby, Esq.; Alan C. Kessler, Esq.; and Richard A. Sprague, Esq. comprise the Compliance Committee. This committee oversees attorney compliance; reviews requests for waivers, extensions and deferrals from lawyers; reviews determination of lawyer noncompliance; and makes recommendations to the board for action regarding these issues.

2003 Board Actions and Operations Highlights

The board held four meetings in 2003.

Distance Learning Pilot Project

A two-year pilot project was begun January 1, 2003, to allow attorneys the option of taking Internet or computer-based courses. The courses must be pre-approved and provide a way to ensure interactivity and/or monitor course participation. Up to three of the twelve required hours may be fulfilled in this manner.

To date, the program has been very well received.

ORACLE

Board administrator Dan Levering served as president of the Organization of Regulatory Administrators for Continuing Legal Education in 2003. ORACLE is a national organization that represents the country's 40 mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions.

Other Accomplishments

The board's other accomplishments for 2003 include

- conducting a CLE providers conference in the fall
- developing and testing methods of electronic funds transfer with providers to minimize the need to mail and process checks.
- starting plans for a multi-state, paperless reporting test that would allow Pennsylvania CLE providers to file electronic reports with other mandatory CLE jurisdictions.

Attorney Compliance

Lawyer compliance with requirements of Pennsylvania CLE Rules remains very high. Chart 3.6.1 on page 50 displays the compliance rate and number of lawyers in each group whose names were submitted to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court for failure to meet CLE requirements.

Looking Ahead to 2004

The board has prepared for an active 2004 year, including

- a Web site redesign project. The new Web site will provide more information, options and Web-based services for attorneys and providers.
- a major data archiving project involving CLE's main database. Automation initiatives and utilization of technology allow the board to significantly expand compliance assurance features to lawyers while maintaining high standards of CLE administration. AOPC

Attorney Compliance				
Compliance Group/ Year Ending	# Lawyers Subject to Requirements	# Lawyers Complying	# Lawyers Involuntarily Inactivated	Compliance Rates (%)
Group 1 (April)				
92-93	17,100	16,959	141	99.2
93-94	17,300	17,179	121	99.3
94-95	17,619	17,552	67	99.6
95-96	17,873	17,768	105	99.4
96-97	17,804	17,639	165	99.1
97-98	17,665	17,523	142	99.2
98-99	17,864	17,751	113	99.4
99-00	18,132	18,018	114	99.4
00-01	18,426	18,295	131	99.3
01-02	18,480	18,342	138	99.2
02-03	18,668	18,539	129	99.3
Group 2 (August)				
92-93	17,124	16,868	256	98.5
93-94	17,289	17,134	155	99.1
94-95	17,649	17,540	109	99.4
95-96	17,595	17,507	87	99.5
96-97	17,410	17,294	116	99.3
97-98	17,613	17,511	102	99.5
98-99	17,756	17,666	90	99.5
99-00	18,087	17,974	113	99.4
00-01	18,181	18,100	81	99.6
01-02	18,143	18,011	132	99.3
02-03	18,572	18,493	79	99.6
Group 3 (December)				
92-93	17,269	16,936	333	98.1
93-94	17,474	17,414	60	99.7
94-95	17,679	17,574	105	99.4
95-96	17,542	17,430	112	99.4
96-97	17,582	17,456	126	99.3
97-98	17,781	17,647	134	99.2
98-99	17,968	17,865	103	99.4
99-00	18,220	18,113	107	99.4
00-01	18,361	18,227	134	99.3
01-02	18,479	18,366	113	99.4
02-03	18,625	18,527	98	99.5

Table 3.6.1