



Commission  
on Continuing  
Legal Education

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2022  
Annual Report

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May 2023



# Commission on Continuing Legal Education

## 2022 Annual Report

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Sharon L. Kennedy

CHIEF JUSTICE

Patrick F. Fischer

R. Patrick DeWine

Michael P. Donnelly

Melody J. Stewart

Jennifer Brunner

Joseph T. Deters

JUSTICES

Stephanie E. Hess

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Chief Justice and Justices  
of the Supreme Court of Ohio,

To serve the public interest that mandates the competent performance of the duties of attorneys and judicial officers in Ohio, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education administers the rules and regulates the compliance with the CLE requirements for attorneys and judges in the State of Ohio to ensure that throughout their careers, attorneys and judges remain current regarding the law and maintain the requisite knowledge and skill necessary to fulfill their professional responsibilities.

On behalf of the commissioners, I present the 2022 Annual Report of the Commission on Continuing Legal Education. The report includes a detailed review of the administration of continuing legal education requirements for attorneys and judges pursuant to Gov. Bar R. X of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, and Gov.Jud. R. IV of the Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio for calendar year 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina White Palmer, Esq.

*Director, Attorney Services Division*

*Secretary to the Commission on Continuing  
Legal Education*

## Commission

The Commission is composed of 19 members appointed by the Supreme Court, including 12 attorneys licensed to practice law in Ohio, representing each appellate district; one dean or member of a law faculty engaged in full-time legal education in an Ohio law school; five judges; and one non-attorney. Commission members are appointed by Supreme Court justices to three-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. Commissioners serve as volunteers and are not compensated.

## Chairperson

Kevin Williams was elected to serve as the Commission chairperson in 2022. He is serving his second term on the Commission. Williams is with the Law Office of William A. Morse in Worthington.

## Vice-Chairperson

Robert Mann was elected to serve as vice-chairperson in 2022, and has served on the Commission since 2017. Mann is with the Columbus firm Mann & Carducci Co., LPA.

## Director and Staff

Gina White Palmer, Director of the Attorney Services Division, serves as Secretary to the Commission. Pursuant to CLE Reg. 201, the action of the Secretary shall constitute the action of the Commission, unless and until the Commission determines otherwise. The Secretary takes initial action on all applications for accreditation, maintains CLE records of all attorneys, judges, and magistrates. Further, the Secretary has the authority to review and decide requests for exemption from the CLE requirements. The staff of the Office of Attorney Services consists of 10 full-time positions who assist the Commission in executing the administration of continuing legal education requirements.

## CLE Commission Roster for 2022

**Kevin Williams, Esq., Chair**  
Law Office of William A. Morse  
*10th District*

**John Huffman, Esq.**  
Huffman, Kelley & Brock, LLC  
*3rd District*

**Robert Mann, Esq., Vice-Chair**  
Mann & Carducci Co., LPA  
*5th District*

**Michael Kirby, Esq.**  
Kirby & Kirby Ltd.  
*6th District*

**Douglas Bloom, Esq.**  
Bloom Law Group, LLC  
*8th District*

**Hon. Michael Krumholtz**  
Montgomery County Common Pleas Court  
*Judge*

**Hon. Laurel Beatty Blunt**  
Tenth District Court of Appeals  
*Judge*

**Hon. Sherrie Mikhail Miday**  
Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court  
*Judge*

**Karen Bradley, Esq.**  
Bradley & Associates  
*2nd District*

**Hon. Michael Oster, Jr.**  
Butler County Common Pleas Court  
*Judge*

**Julie Cohara**  
Director of Degree Programs  
Ohio University  
*Non-Attorney Member*

**Stephen Pronai, Esq.**  
*12th District*

**Hon. Marisa Cornachio**  
Willoughby Municipal Court  
*Judge*

**James Sillery, Esq.**  
Mollica Gall Sloan & Sillery Co., LPA  
*4th District*

**Richard Dana, Jr., Esq.**  
11th District

**Patricia Wagner, Esq.**  
Youngstown State University  
*7th District*

**Professor Terri Enns**  
The Ohio State University  
Moritz College of Law  
*Law School Faculty*

**Karin Wiest, Esq.**  
Wayne County CASA/GAL Program  
*9th District*

**Barbara Howard, Esq.**  
Barbara J. Howard Co., LPA  
*1st District*

# Office of Attorney Services Staff

**Gina White Palmer, Esq.**  
*Director, Attorney Services Division*

**Minerva Elizaga, Esq.**  
*Assistant Director, Attorney Services*  
*(Resigned effective July 1, 2022)*

**Bradley Martinez, Esq.**  
*Attorney Services Counsel*  
*(Jan. 1, 2022, through Aug. 14, 2022)*  
*Assistant Director, Attorney Services*  
*(Aug. 15, 2022, through present)*

**Alexis Preskar**  
*Attorney Services Counsel*

**Tammy White**  
*Attorney Services Manager*

**Shannon Scheid**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Denise Spencer**  
*CLE Specialist*

**Tarik Jackson**  
*CLE Specialist*

**Lori Gilbert**  
*Attorney Services Specialist*  
*(Resigned effective June 30, 2022)*

**Penny Marchal**  
*Attorney Services Specialist*  
*(Jan. 1, 2022, through Aug. 7, 2022)*  
*CLE Specialist*  
*(Aug. 8, 2022, through present)*

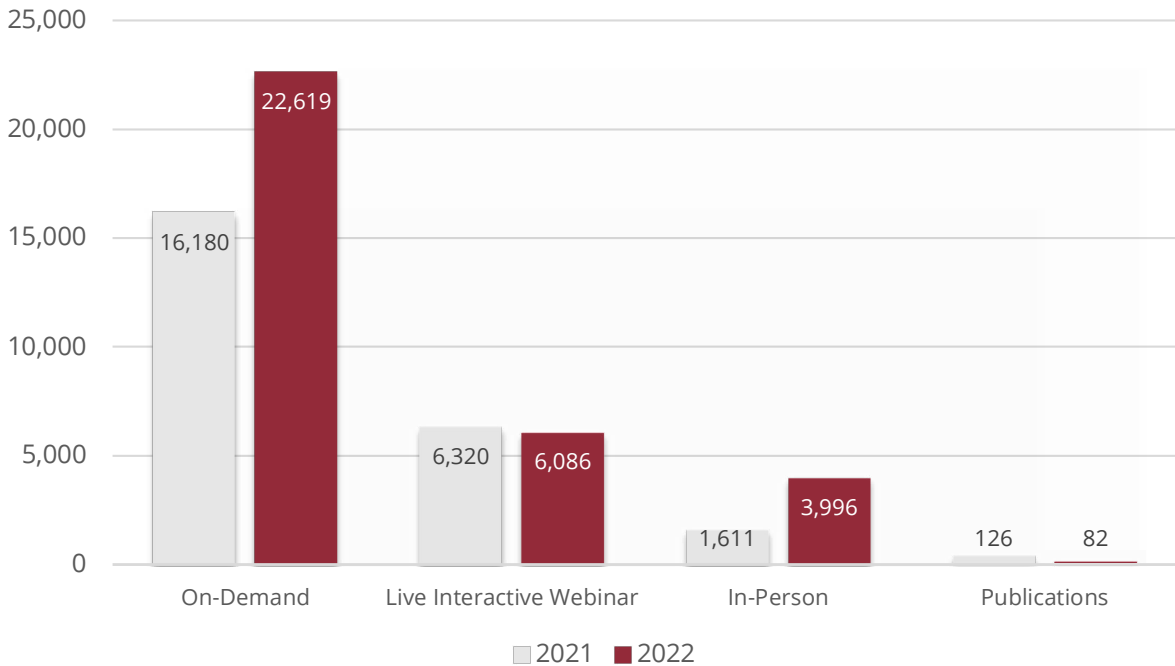
**Kirstyn Moyers**  
*Attorney Services Specialist*

**Niko Jackson**  
*Attorney Services Specialist*  
*(Resigned effective July 29, 2022)*

**Joshua Martin**  
*Attorney Services Specialist*  
*(Effective Sept. 12, 2022)*

**Jennifer Smith**  
*Attorney Services Specialist*  
*(Effective Oct. 24, 2022)*

## CLE Activity Type Comparison



### Introduction

In the calendar year 2022, the Commission met quarterly to review and act on matters brought before the Commission including proposed rule amendments, and the enforcement of compliance with the continuing legal education requirements.

- Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the self-study caps for judges and magistrates were increased to 20 hours per biennial compliance period. Beginning with the 2023-2024 compliance period, the separate self-study cap for live webinars will be eliminated.

### Rule Amendments to Gov.Bar R. X and Gov.Jud. R. IV

During 2022, the Supreme Court adopted proposed amendments to Gov.Bar R. X and Gov.Jud. R. IV. The most significant amendments include:

- Effective Aug. 1, 2022, attorneys who serve as precinct election officials may receive up to four general hours of CLE credit for each election, with a maximum of 12 credit hours for service performed during a biennial compliance period.
- Effective Sept. 1, 2022, the rules governing the CLE requirements for acting judges and magistrates were relocated from the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the CLE self-study caps for attorneys were permanently removed from the rule. The amendment allows attorneys to fully comply with the 24-hour CLE requirements through approved self-study activities.

### Applications for Accreditation for CLE Activities

Pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X (2)(B)(3), the Commission accredits continuing legal education programs and establishes procedures for accreditation.

In 2022, a total of 26,721 applications for accreditation for continuing legal education activities were received by the Commission, a 9% increase from the previous year. Of this total, 26,213 activities (98%) were granted CLE accreditation, 234 activities were canceled, or the applications were withdrawn, 120 applications were rejected for incomplete applications, and 154 applications were denied accreditation.

Pursuant to Reg. 201.3, an applicant may appeal the decision of the Secretary of the Commission to deny accreditation within 30 days of the decision. The Commission received five appeals of the Secretary's decision that the applications did not meet the requirements for accreditation pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X and the Regulations. The Commission denied all five appeals upholding the Secretary's decision to deny accreditation for those activities.

A review of the activity formats for 2022 indicates the vast majority of CLE were offered through self-study activities. The Commission received 22,619 applications for self-study activities. Of this total, 16,533 applications were for on-demand and live webcast activities, and 6,086 were live, interactive webinars.

The remaining 4,102 applications included 24 applications for pro bono CLE activities in which attorneys provided pro bono services and received one hour of CLE credit for every six hours of pro bono services provided in Ohio, 82 applications from attorneys applying for CLE credit for publishing a book or article related to the practice of law, and 3,996 traditional in-person CLE activities. The Commission has seen a shift in the delivery formats of CLE activities with the preferred format being offered by self-study, on-demand or live webinars.

### Exemptions from CLE Requirements

Pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X (12), attorneys and judges may apply for an exemption if they are unable to comply with the CLE requirements due to illness or disability, special circumstances, full-time military duty, or upon a life-time appointment as a federal judge or magistrate.

In 2022, the Commission received 76 requests for exemptions from the CLE requirements. Of this total, the Commission granted 27 exemptions for illness and/or disability, 38 exemptions were granted to attorneys on full-time military duty, and seven exemptions were granted based on special circumstances. Four requests were withdrawn, rejected, or denied.

### Late Compliance and Sanctions

Gov.Bar R. X (18)(A) provides that an attorney or judge who fails to timely comply with the applicable requirements of Gov.Bar R. X or Gov. Jud. R. IV, but does so within 90 days of the Dec. 31 deadline, shall be assessed a late fee in accordance with CLE Regulation 503.

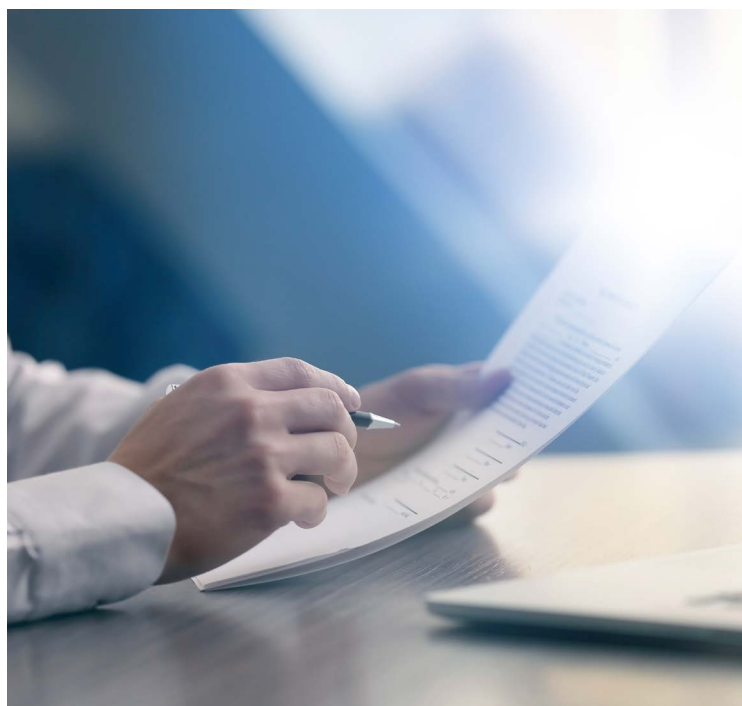
In 2022, a total of 22,851 attorneys and judges with the last names beginning with A-L were required to comply with CLE requirements for the 2020-2021 compliance period ending Dec. 31, 2021. More than 94% of the attorneys and judges (21,468) timely complied with CLE requirements for the compliance period.

On Feb. 10, 2022, the Commission issued Notices of Apparent Non-Compliance to 1,383 attorneys and judges who failed to comply with the CLE requirements for the compliance period ending Dec. 31, 2021. The notice instructed attorneys

and judges that the CLE deficiencies must be cured by the late compliance deadline, along with payment of the late compliance fee.

A total of 435 attorneys and judges (31%) provided evidence of timely completing the CLE requirements during the 2020-2021 compliance period, or changed their attorney registration status that removed the CLE requirements.

An additional 757 attorneys and judges (55%) submitted a request for late compliance providing evidence that the deficiencies were cured by the late compliance deadlines.



Of the attorneys who received a Notice of Apparent Noncompliance, 191 (14%) did not cure the CLE deficiencies by the late compliance deadlines and were subject to sanction and suspension from the practice of law.

On Oct. 31, 2022, the Commission imposed monetary sanctions against 191 attorneys for noncompliance with the continuing legal education requirements for the 2020-2021 compliance period. In addition to the monetary sanctions, the Commission suspended four attorneys from the practice of law for repeated noncompliance with the provisions of Gov. Bar R. X, and suspended two attorneys from the practice of law for failure to complete the new-lawyers-training requirement as required by Gov.Bar R. X (14)(A), and not filing evidence of compliance or coming into compliance as required by Gov.Bar R. X (18)(A).





Attorneys may earn up to four hours of CLE for working as a precinct election officer on Election Day, not to exceed 12 hours.

### CLE Funds Collected

Pursuant to Reg. 901 Schedule of Fees for Sponsors and Attorneys, the Commission collects application fees for sponsors applying for CLE accreditation and late fees for the late submission of attorney credits. Sponsors are assessed a \$25 application fee for applying for accreditation for CLE activities and assessed a \$100 late fee for failure to submit the application timely. Attorneys are assessed a \$25 late fee for failure to timely report credits or applying for accreditation more than 60 days after attending an out-of-state CLE activity. Pursuant to Reg. 503, attorneys and judges may be subject to late compliance fees or monetary sanctions for failure to comply with the CLE requirements based upon the number of hours deficient, ranging from \$75 to \$300.

In 2022, the Commission collected a total of \$387,870 for sponsor and attorney fees:

Sponsor Fees	\$182,975
Sponsor Late Fees	\$50,850
Attorney Late Compliance and Sanction Fees	\$142,945
Attorney Late Application and Credit Fees	\$11,100

### 2022 At-a-Glance

- Effective Aug. 1, 2022, attorneys may earn up to four hours of CLE for working as a precinct election officer on Election Day, not to exceed 12 hours.

- Effective Sept. 1, 2022, the rules governing CLE requirements for acting judges and magistrates were relocated from the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the self-study caps for attorneys were permanently removed from Gov.Bar R. X.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the self-study caps for judges and magistrates were increased to 20 hours per biennial compliance period.
- On Oct. 31, 2022, monetary sanctions were imposed against 191 attorneys, including suspending 6 attorneys from the practice of law for failure to comply with the CLE requirements.
- The Commission collected a total of \$387,870 in sponsor applications fees and attorney late compliance fees and sanctions.

### Conclusion

The Commission furthers the Supreme Court's responsibility of regulating the practice of law in Ohio by ensuring the bench and bar take the required CLE programs to remain educated and up to date on matters pertaining to the practice of law.

The Commission continues to conduct a review of the rules and regulations in order ensure its policies are fair, consistently applied, and as efficient as possible.



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Commission on Continuing Legal Education

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