

1 **18-201. Minimum educational requirements.**

2 A. **Hours required.** Every member of the state bar in active status, beginning in the
3 first full year after the date of admission, shall complete twelve (12) hours of CLE during each
4 year as provided by these rules. One (1) hour of CLE is equivalent to sixty (60) minutes of
5 instruction. This rule sets forth the requisite hours and categories of CLE. Rule 18-204 NMRA
6 sets forth the means by which the hours may be acquired.

7 B. **Legal substantive credits.** Nine (9) of the required twelve (12) hours may include
8 legal subjects or subjects which relate to the individual attorney's practice of law. The hours shall
9 be defined as general credits.

10 C. **Legal ethics and professionalism credits.** At least two (2) hours of the twelve (12)
11 hours shall be devoted to board approved subjects dealing with legal ethics or professionalism.
12 Excess ethics and professionalism credits shall be applied as follows:

- 13 first, to any deficit in general credits in the current licensing year;
14 second, to the next licensing year as carry-over ethics and professionalism credits; and
15 third, to the next licensing year as carry-over general credits, subject to the limitations set
16 forth in Paragraph E of this rule.

17 D. **Equity in justice credits.** At least one (1) hour of the twelve (12) hours shall be
18 devoted to board approved subjects dealing with equity in justice. Excess equity in justice credits
19 shall be applied as follows:

- 20 first, to any deficit in general credits in the current licensing year;
21 second, to the next licensing year as carry-over equity in justice credits; and
22 third, to the next licensing year as carry-over general credits, subject to the limitations set
23 forth in Paragraph E of this rule.

1 E. **Carry-over.** Any member may carry up to twelve (12) hours of excess credits
2 earned in one (1) licensing year over to the next licensing year only. Only two (2) hours of ethics
3 and professionalism credit may be carried over as part of the twelve (12) hours of credits. Only
4 one (1) hour of equity in justice credit may be carried over as part of the twelve (12) hours of
5 credits. Excess ethics, professionalism, and equity in justice credits can be converted to be used
6 toward the substantive (general) requirement. [~~Only four (4) self-study credit hours may be carried~~
7 ~~over as part of the twelve (12) hours of credits.~~] No credit may be carried over for more than one
8 (1) licensing year.

9 F. **Judges.** All state and federal judges, retired judges, and other judicial officers who
10 are members of the state bar on active status or who are honorary judicial members shall be
11 required to complete the same number of hours of CLE as other bar members in active status. The
12 means by which these individuals may satisfy their CLE requirements are set forth in Rule 18-
13 204 NMRA.

14 [As amended, effective January 1, 1990; November 1, 1991; February 1, 1992; March 23, 1998;
15 January 1, 2001; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 05-8300-007, effective January 1, 2006;
16 by Supreme Court Order No. 06-8300-033, effective January 1, 2007; by Supreme Court Order
17 No. 11-8300-020, effective May 1, 2011 for compliance year ending December 31, 2011, and
18 subsequent compliance years; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 20-8300-015, effective
19 December 31, 2020; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 21-8300-030, effective for all cases
20 filed or pending on or after December 31, 2021; as amended by Supreme Court Order Nos. S-1-
21 RCR-2023-00032 and S-1-RCR-2023-00034, effective January 1, 2024; as amended by Supreme
22 Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2024-00055, effective January 1, 2025.]

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1 **Committee commentary.** —

2 **Equity in Justice Education**

3 [1] Equity in Justice content focuses on ensuring that all persons will be treated fairly under
4 the laws of New Mexico and promotes full and equal participation by all in the profession through
5 identifying and eliminating the effects of prejudice, bias, and racism. Addressing topics on race,
6 gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and other issues of disparity and inequity
7 will underscore and define how shortfalls can be addressed and dismantled. The practice of law
8 is a profession in service to others and members of the Bar must have a clear understanding of the
9 changes that are needed to truly be in service to others. The result of these changes will be
10 equitable access to justice for the community and a more equitable Bar.

11 [2] Equity in Justice CLEs can incorporate topics that are relevant to the practice of law such
12 as: implicit and explicit bias, systemic and structural oppression; equal access to justice; competent
13 representation of diverse populations; diversity and inclusion initiatives in the legal profession;
14 recognition, mitigation, or elimination of bias in the legal profession or the legal system; anti-
15 racism; cultural competency in the practice of law or the administration of justice; and the
16 historical and contemporary context of all of the preceding issues. Effective CLE content will
17 include education as well as promote discussion and reflection. Instructors or lecturers must be
18 either attorneys or judges with content expertise or other experts in the subject area based on their
19 education and background.

20 **Professionalism Education**

21 [3] Lawyer professionalism includes basic compliance with the Rules of Professional
22 Conduct, such as acting with competence and diligence, effectively communicating with clients,
23 maintaining client confidences, and safeguarding client property. Professionalism also includes

1 acting with honor, integrity, honesty, dignity, and objectivity. It involves a commitment to
2 upholding the rule of law and the legal system, promoting fairness and just results, respecting
3 courts, clients, other lawyers, witnesses, and self-represented persons. It means demonstrating a
4 commitment to serving others, promoting the public good, and striving to provide all persons,
5 regardless of their means, backgrounds, or beliefs with equal access to the law and the justice
6 system.

7 [4] Professionalism CLE topics can include: mentoring; practicing with civility; the tension
8 between client duties, duties to courts, and duties to the profession and the public; how to
9 effectively work with opposing counsel in highly emotional or contentious matters; use and misuse
10 of the discovery process; the intersection of lawyer well-being and effective advocacy;
11 incorporating cultural competency in client representation and interactions with counsel and
12 courts; the importance of pro bono and low bono representation in providing access to justice; and
13 the challenges and rewards of representing unpopular clients or causes. Effective CLE content will
14 include education as well as promote discussion and reflection. Instructors or lecturers must be
15 either attorneys or judges with content expertise or other experts in the subject area based on their
16 education and background.

17 [Adopted by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2023-00032, effective January 1, 2024.]