

December 7, 2022

Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Petition 22-01 DEIA CLE

Dear Honorable Justices,

The State Bar of Wisconsin (SBW) writes to address the second response by the Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) to Rule Petition 22-01.

While we acknowledge the BBE's position regarding caps on the "specialty" education credits, the State Bar continues to believe Wisconsin's attorneys are in the best position to determine the education necessary to be competent in their own practices. The capping of DEIA credits does not recognize the legal and business needs of specific members and their evolving firms. It prevents Wisconsin lawyers from expanding their knowledge and skillset in a way that makes it possible for them to adequately represent their clients. The current system, supervised by the BBE, has credit types beyond LPM and LAU that are not capped. Ethics and Professional Responsibility credits and three types of Guardian ad Litem credits do not have caps and can be used to satisfy the full reporting requirements in the current system. The State Bar believes that DEIA, and for that matter LPM and LAU, should be free from caps.

As to the definition of DEIA programming, the State Bar is willing to make modifications that are consistent with the intent of this specialized training. However, the State Bar is concerned that the definition does not narrow to such a degree that programming would already qualify for credit under existing definitions.

We repeat a section from our memorandum in support of the petition, "Assisting attorneys in being intentional and deliberative in recognizing their own biases, and addressing them when dealing with colleagues, clients, and the public in general, helps lawyers better deliver legal services competently and ethically."

December 7, 2022

Page 2

Again, the State Bar appreciates the opportunity to discuss this matter and looks forward to working with the Court to develop educational requirements for a strong, competent legal community.

Respectfully submitted this ??th day of December, 2022

Margaret W. Hickey
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Past President

State Bar of Wisconsin, 5302 Eastpark Blvd., Madison, WI 53718

Cc: Director Jacquelynn B. Rothstein, Board of Bar Examiners