

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
SUPREME COURT**

In the matter of:

**The Petition of Attorney Richard J. Opie
and 12 other State Bar members
proposing an amendment to SCR 31.05
concerning teaching as means to satisfy
the requirements of SCR 31.02.**

**PETITIONERS' RESPONSE TO COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF BAR
EXAMINERS REGARDING THE AMENDMENT OF SUPREME COURT RULE
31.05**

Under the current Supreme Court Rules, an attorney who teaches a course in an ABA approved law school may be granted CLE credits. In order to receive CLE credits the attorney goes to the Wisconsin CLE reporting website. The attorney logs in, clicks on "Teaching ABA Law School", selects a school using a dropdown box and then inputs information regarding the title of the course, the date taught, the location and the hours. It is a simple and efficient process.

The Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) asserts that creating a category for legal specialty courses would be more burdensome than reviewing individualized requests submitted under SCR 31.07(2)(f). The BBE's comments do not specifically address how this would be the case nor is it apparent from the comments how allowing CLE for legal specialty courses would be "burdening the court".

There are 6 ABA approved paralegal programs in the state of Wisconsin, with approximately 30 attorneys teaching legal specialty courses. The procedures for granting CLE for teaching at an ABA approved law school are in place; adjusting those procedures to include teaching at an ABA approved paralegal school would be less burdensome to the court than the case by case review of CLE applications from 30 attorneys.

Petitioners are not requesting an entirely new category; rather they are requesting that the current category allowing CLE for teaching in an ABA approved law school be expanded to include courses taught at ABA approved paralegal school.

Amending 31.05 to include teaching in ABA approved paralegal programs would be more efficient than reviewing individual applications. Amending 31.05 is also appropriate, given that teaching a legal specialty course in an ABA approved paralegal program satisfies the intent and the spirit of the requirement that CLE increases professional competence as a lawyer and deals primarily with the practice of law.

Respectfully submitted,

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