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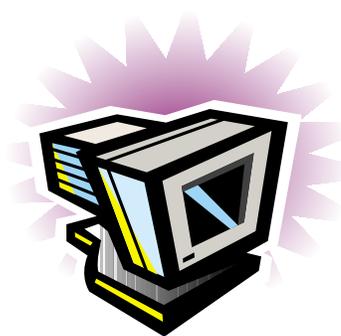
Expand Your CLE Horizons!

by Brian E. Davis, Director of Information Technology, I.C.L.E. in Georgia

“Ain’t technology great!” That is a comment being repeated around the state by attorneys who are taking advantage of the new changes to the regulations supplementing MCLE Rule 8-106 adopted by the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency of the State Bar of Georgia. The changes allow Georgia attorneys to obtain up to half, or six hours, of their annual continuing legal education requirement through self-study. Self-study is defined as a CLE activity specifically designed as an organized program of learning that is open to observation by members of the Commission for Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC) and its staff. Development and presentation of the program must have substantial input from experienced attorneys and these activities must take place in a location that is free from distractions and interruptions.



Fortunately for Georgia attorneys, ICLE has developed just such a curriculum of self-study events. These include audio programs, videotaped programs and on-line video CLE programs. The key to successful self-study is to create programs that capture the interest of the user and maintain that interest throughout the event. Therefore, each session must be carefully planned and executed with the dynamics of self-study in mind. This requires the presenters to change fundamentally the way that they present their materials.



ICLE began to develop “self-study” programs long before the regulation changes became effective on January 1, 2001. The first step in the development of these programs began in August of 1999, when Steve Harper, ICLE’s Associate Director for Programs, contacted several leading education experts at the University of Georgia and elsewhere regarding development of aural CLE opportunities for attorneys. The idea behind the audio CLE programs was to create a one-hour scripted audio session with accompanying written materials. The programs are

digitally recorded and then re-mastered into an audio file for use on the Internet. ICLE also plans to make these tapes available on cassettes as part of our video and audiotape rental curriculum. The idea behind the one-hour audio format is simple: the self-study learner absorbs aural information better in small chunks.

The self-study concept also is an ideal fit for ICLE when it comes to making videotaped recordings of selected live seminars available for self-study. The ICLE video library already is in place with titles spanning the spectrum of legal topics. In the past, attorneys needed to setup a video seminar with a minimum of five attendees in order to receive credit. Now, they can rent a video and watch the program alone and at their own pace. Attorneys can rent videotapes for self-study from the ICLE web-site (www.iclega.org) simply by clicking on the Video Rental link and then choosing the “Self-Study” option, where the user will find a listing of all of the programs that ICLE currently has available for rental with credit hours and rental fees. The set of videotapes for the desired seminar will be shipped by UPS to the attorney as soon as possible. The set must be returned to ICLE and received not later than two weeks from the date ICLE

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MCLE Hours and Accreditation

By Stephen J. Harper, Associate Director for Programs, ICLE in Georgia

In the last edition of the *ChronICLE*, Larry Jones, I.C.L.E.'s Executive Director, told you that our times as a Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) provider and yours as an MCLE consumer are changing. In fact, very significant changes in the MCLE area were on their way to becoming a reality when Larry wrote his article. Let me explain.

About two years ago, Bill Cannon, who was then the President of the State Bar of Georgia, shared his plans with us to "push" for a change to the Regulations supporting the MCLE Rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of Georgia. Bill wanted every active member of the Georgia Bar to be able to obtain a portion of his or her MCLE credits on an individual basis. His focus was on self-study using distance learning technology. Bill's proposal had to overcome some initial inertia.

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To respond to Bill's initiative, we went about studying the concept of distance learning. We already knew its use was increasing by leaps and bounds. From our reading on the subject and discussions with experts in the field at the University of Georgia, we discovered that as long as the experiences are developed, produced and executed with the specific goal of creating a product that accounts for the special requirements of distance learning, its worth as a learning tool is beyond question. The same things that make distance learning a special breed of educational animal also require special efforts in order to make it an effective educational experience. They are based on human dynamics. Things like motivation of the presenter relative to the use of the medium, understanding the limitations of the medium, simplicity and clarity of content and structure, congruency of presentation, attention span, quality of teacher performance relative to the medium, and acceptable technology make a much greater difference when the learner is separated by distance and time from the teacher.

The concept was prepared and presented to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC). The CCLC's evaluation of the proposal was careful and thoughtful. Over the course of many months, the sub-committee and the full CCLC discussed and compared the concepts of distance learning and self-study to live programming. The changes to our MCLE regulations adopted by the CCLC became effective on January 1, 2001. They are the result of the CCLC's desire to create an MCLE environment that provides to all Georgia attorneys a total continuing legal education experience that is as good or better than any in the nation, to make MCLE available to Georgia attorneys on a more user-friendly basis, and to enhance professionalism in the practice of law. The regulation changes have, therefore, resulted in a blended educational product that combines live seminars and institutes with In-House/Self-Study.

I.C.L.E.'s role in the process of putting together a top quality distance learning curriculum for Georgia attorneys addresses each of the Commission's goals. In order for distance learning programs to provide the best possible educational value, they must be created with the medium in mind. What makes sense in a live learning environment may not be clear on audiotape, on videotape, or on a web cast over the Internet. Consequently, we are making every effort to ensure that our distance learning curriculum provides a quality experience. For example, we require each speaker who records an audio program to script in verbatim his or her presentation and correlate it with the written materials. The resultant smoothness of the flow and pace facilitate aural learning on-line. So that quality is optimized, the videotapes of entire live seminars that I.C.L.E. offers within our video rental curriculum are professionally recorded and edited by Georgia Video Productions using digital technology

and high-tech graphics. Additionally, in order to "capture" more of the best one and two-hour presentations at our live seminars, the Institute has purchased a state-of-the-art digital camera and the other necessary equipment to enable trained I.C.L.E. personnel to do the initial recording. This cost-saving measure will allow us to "capture" more of our best live sessions and will add many shorter videotapes to your video rental options and your on-line options at our web site, www.iclega.org. Now that you have a better idea of the "what" and "why" of this new opportunity, let us explore the "how many" and "how" of distance learning.

The enabling change was made to Regulation (5) of MCLE Rule 8-106. Now Regulation (5) adds "Self-Study" activities to the already approved "In-House" activities and expressly does away with the five- (5) attorneys attendance requirement of the old regulation. The new Regulation (5) states that "member attorneys may participate on an individual basis in distance learning CLE activities, which constitutes Self-Study." Up to six (6) CLE hours "may be earned by an attorney in a calendar year through any combination of In-House/Self-Study activities." Upon written application to and approval by the CCLC, up to six In-House/Self-Study CLE hours "may be carried forward and applied to In-House/Self-Study CLE for the next calendar year only." Regulation (12), which was added to MCLE Rule 8-106, defines CLE Delivery Formats "to include, for example, video or audio replays of live CLE activities, on-line computer CLE activities, CD-ROM and DVD interactive CLE activities, and written correspondence CLE courses." Every distance learning CLE activity must comply with "all other accreditation standards set out in [the Supreme Court of Georgia MCLE] Rules and Regulations."

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ICLE From the Inside

KIEZHA SMITH FERRELL

Kiezha Smith Ferrell joined the I.C.L.E. staff last September as Design and Production Coordinator. She designs all the brochures that announce I.C.L.E.'s seminars and institutes and works directly with the attorneys and program chairs to produce a format that's informative and interesting.

Kiezha was born in Cleveland, Tennessee and graduated from Cleveland High School. She attended Austin Peay State University, majoring in print journalism, and was editor of *The All State*, Austin Peay's college newspaper.

After leaving APSU in 1996, Kiezha worked at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. While there, she met her husband, Sean, a graduate student at the university's Episcopal seminary. As they planned their February 1999 wedding, Kiezha began working at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee while Sean completed his third and final year of seminary.

Just weeks after their wedding, Sean accepted a position in Athens, Georgia, to become the Episcopal Chaplain for the University of Georgia and serve on the staff at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. They moved to Athens in June of 1999, with their two Yorkshire terrier "children", Tigger and Guinness.

Kiezha's hobbies include reading (especially forensic science/legal thrillers), Yoga, and cooking, which she enjoys in large measure every Wednesday night. She prepares a hot meal for about 40 UGA students each Wednesday at the Episcopal Center, the hub of Sean's university ministry.

Since coming to work at I.C.L.E., Kiezha has had a tremendously positive impact. She pays great attention to detail and has the creative skills necessary to make sure the overall presentation catches the eye of Georgia attorneys and accurately informs them of the events' contents. To do this, she must select graphics, suggest phraseology, design the layout by computer, and proofread the product at every stage of production, from draft through printing.

When you consider the sheer number of brochures, the multi-tasking nature of Kiezha's job presents its own unique challenges. Chances are that when you call the Institute to register or ask a question, Kiezha will be one of the people with whom you speak. As the Institute expands its Internet curriculum, Kiezha will spend more time assisting Brian Davis, the I.C.L.E. Director of Information Technology, with the myriad tasks that attend such a venture.

"I really thrive on the fast-paced environment at I.C.L.E. There's no time to get bored when you've always got a broad range of seminars that need creative treatment — in a single day I might draft brochures for five or six very different topics," says Kiezha.

And now you know a little more about one of the people behind the scenes, phones and pages of I.C.L.E.

MCLE Hours and Accreditation, cont.

As in the past, with all I.C.L.E. programming, once you register for our distance learning activity, the Institute will comply with all accreditation standards for you and automatically report your earned MCLE credits to the State Bar of Georgia.

We know this new In-House/Self-Study option will give you more flexibility to help you satisfy your MCLE requirement. We also promise that I.C.L.E. will create top quality programming for your distance learning experience. Our live programs will continue to be of the same excellent quality that has made us a premiere CLE provider. They will continue to provide an environment where you can share observations and ideas about the substantive topics of discussion with other Georgia attorneys and discuss ways to enrich our profession and society through your practice of law and as an individual.

THE CHRONICLE

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The Chronicle is the newsletter of The Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia.

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IN MEMORIAM
A. GUS CLEVELAND
(1918 – 2000)

A. Gus Cleveland, a senior partner at Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, was known affectionately as “The Father of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia.” That cognomen was richly deserved.

Gus served as the first chairman of the State Bar of Georgia CLE Committee and for three years oversaw the presentation of various CLE programs around the state. In 1965, when it became apparent that a full-time CLE staff was necessary for the continuation of CLE programs in Georgia, Gus was instrumental in the formation of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, a consortium of the State Bar of Georgia and the three law schools then accredited in the state, those at Emory, Mercer, and the University of Georgia. He drafted the Articles and Bylaws of the new Institute, adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar and the three law schools in August, 1965.

For the next thirty-five years Gus continued to provide a steady hand and sound judgment in the development of the operation and policies of the Institute, serving for many years as a member of the Board of Trustees and, until his death in December, 2000, as the advisor to the Board.

In 1986, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to CLE, the Institute dedicated and named its new printing department building in Athens in Gus’s honor, followed in 1993 by the rededication of its expanded printing department building in his continuing honor. In 1990, in the 25th anniversary year of ICLE, the

Board of Trustees created the A. Gus Cleveland Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education “to be awarded from time to time to the Georgia attorney who, through outstanding contributions to CLE, has made a profound difference in our profession.” The first recipient of the A. Gus Cleveland Award was A. Gus Cleveland.

Gus’s other activities on behalf of the lawyers of the state included service as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission from 1971 until 1990, spanning the terms of three Governors. He chaired the Commission for a decade. A member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia for many years, Gus served as President of the State Bar in 1971–72. He received the first Distinguished Service Award of the State Bar of Georgia in 1981. He was also president of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta and the Old War Horse Lawyers Club, and he was a member of the ABA House of Delegates for many years.

From the late ‘80’s onward, Gus was especially active in the area of professionalism. He thought of professionalism as basically simply following the Golden Rule, which embodies principles of conduct that lawyers ought to follow, going beyond the rules they are required to follow. A significant honor during his later years occurred in 1999 when a newly endowed Chair at the University of Georgia School of Law was named the A. Gus Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism.

Expand Your CLE Horizons, cont.

shipped the set to the attorney. ICLE is planning to record a greater number of live programs in the future in order to expand the current library of video titles.

The third, and for many, most exciting option is ICLE’s web-cast self-study curriculum. ICLE is working in conjunction with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) and GeorgiaNet to broadcast ICLE’s statewide satellite programs on the Internet. Several of these events already have been offered with great success. About a dozen more seminars are scheduled to be offered during the fall of this year. These programs will continue to originate from the downtown Atlanta studios of GPB and will be broadcast via satellite to about twenty locations around the state. In addition to the satellite locations, the program will be

broadcast live over the Internet on ICLE’s web site (www.iclega.org) via a real-time feed from GPB to GeorgiaNet. Each live program also will be made available as an “archived” seminar for a one-year period. Therefore, if an attorney is unable to attend the program on the live date, he or she can go to the ICLE web-site to register for the seminar and watch it at his or her convenience. The “virtual” attendee by using an individual password will have two weeks from the date of his or her registration to complete viewing the program. During the live web cast, the “virtual” attendee has access to the speaker to ask questions via a toll-free phone number. Anytime after the live event, questions can be directed to the speaker at his or her e-mail address. Also, the attendee can download the

printed materials that are part of the program. ICLE will report the attendee’s MCLE credit directly to the State Bar.

The self-study concept has started very well. That is not to say there have not been a few bumps in the road. ICLE is continually working to improve the user-interface for its on-line programs and to decrease the system requirements for the virtual attendee. The advantages of self-study to the attorney are obvious. The self-study options offered by ICLE are available 24/7 and 365 days a year. Attorneys can view these programs anytime they wish, saving them time and money. Self-study CLE is here to stay and ICLE is going to be at the forefront of providing quality CLE in Georgia and around the nation.