



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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October 12, 2020

Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts  
Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule 1:42-1 and CLE Regulations –  
Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias Requirement  
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

Re: Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule 1:42-1 and CLE Regulations –  
Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias Requirement

Dear Judge Grant:

The New Jersey State Bar Association wholeheartedly supports a requirement for two continuing legal education credits in a two-year cycle to be devoted to diversity, inclusion and the elimination of bias. For your reference, I am attaching the NJSBA's initial letter to the court urging that such a requirement be considered.

The NJSBA's support of diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias credits (diversity credits), however, does not diminish the NJSBA's support of a minimum number of ethics and professionalism credits (ethics credits). We believe both are important to ensure a well-prepared bar. For that reason, the NJSBA suggests a clarification to the language contained in the Sept. 14 Notice to the Bar ensuring that while two diversity credits are required in a two-year cycle, three ethics credits are required as well.

To accomplish this, the NJSBA suggests the proposal be modified to eliminate the words "At least" from the beginning of the proposed new language. The added language would then read, "Two of the five hours of credit in ethics and/or professionalism shall be in diversity, inclusion, and elimination of bias." We believe this clarification will appropriately balance the need for diversity credits with the continuing need for ethics credits.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kimberly A. Yonta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail.

Kimberly A. Yonta  
President

cc: Steven D. Bonville, Administrative Office of the Courts, Chief of Staff  
Domenick Carmagnola, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director