

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BRIDGE THE GAP AND MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)

Requirement 1: Rhode Island BRIDGE THE GAP

TIMETABLE: All attorneys admitted on or after January 1, 2011 must accrue and **file** completion or exemption of the one-day Rhode Island Bridge the Gap course. The course will be taken in person (or online if out-of-state) within the first full MCLE year (July 1 to June 30) after admission. Report completion or exemption via the Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Portal (Attorney Portal) at www.courts.ri.gov. If you are exempt from Rhode Island Bridge the Gap because at the date of your admission to the Rhode Island Bar you were in good standing in another jurisdiction for at least three (3) years, you may prove your exemption by uploading a certificate of good standing from the other jurisdiction to the Bridge the Gap section of the Attorney Portal.

Requirement 2: MCLE

Compliance Year: July 1 to June 30 (commencing the **second** July 1 after admission). Note: Up to ten (10) credits accrued between July 1 to June 30 of the pre-MCLE year may be filed as “carry in.” **Be sure to select “sworn in 2016”** as your attorney type when filing MCLE for the first time, due no later than June 30, 2018.

How Many Credits Are Needed?

Ten (10) credits, inclusive of at least **two (2) Legal Ethics Credits**

When Do I File?

No later than June 30 of each year via the Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Portal at www.courts.ri.gov. Hit the “submit” button at the bottom of the Appendix G form page to file your credits when you have completed the **ten (10) credits including two (2) legal ethics**. Retain original certificates for your file for three (3) years. Reported excess credits so that up to ten (10) maximum will be carried forward for the next year only.

How To Get Credit?

1. As a participant in an in-person seminar, a live interactive webinar, or up to a three (3) credit limit per year via interactive online on-demand, audio or video seminar.
2. As a teacher of approved CLE (six (6) credit limit per year).
3. As a participant in approved In-house programs at your firm (five (5) credit limit per year).
4. As an author of a published article (submit Appendix E application for up to a five (5) credit limit per year).

At What Age Am I Exempt from MCLE?

Commencing the MCLE year you reach seventy (70) years of age and thereafter.

Where Do I Declare Credit?

By selecting the live (in person), live webinar or on-demand web course from the accredited Rhode Island MCLE Sponsor drop down list within the Attorney Portal, or by submitting your own individual application for accreditation (Appendix D) located on the Attorney Portal and uploading the agenda documenting a CLE program offered by an unaccredited sponsor.

What If I Live Out-of-State?

You may take courses anywhere from Rhode Island MCLE approved sponsors, or make an individual application for accreditation (Appendix D) for a CLE program taken from a non-accredited sponsor.

or

If you have met the MCLE requirement in the state where you practice, you may file proof of MCLE good standing in that state and declare “**reciprocal compliance**” of **ten (10) credits inclusive of two (2) legal ethics** in Rhode Island via Appendix D.

Can I Verify that the Program is Approved?

Yes, call the MCLE Commission at (401) 222-4942 or view the approved sponsor and course lists via the Attorney Portal at www.courts.ri.gov.

Are There Any Application or Filing Fees?

No – If you file by June 30.

No – If you request individual approval of a non-approved program and you file on time.

Yes – If you file after June 30 (\$50), after September 30 (\$100), after January 1 (\$150). If you need to make up credits (\$100 to \$200). If you become removed and are reinstated (additional \$75).

Read the MCLE Rules and Regulations (Article IV, Rule 3) and access the Attorney Portal on the Judiciary’s website at www.courts.ri.gov.

IMPORTANT: ATTORNEYS OUT OF COMPLIANCE AFTER 180 DAYS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MASTER ROLL WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.