

What We Do

Volunteers

To provide seminars, publications, and other educational services, TexasBarCLE depends on the willingness of Texas lawyers to share knowledge and experience with their fellow lawyers. Almost all authors and speakers who participate in State Bar seminars are volunteers, compensated only for travel expenses.

Without this tradition of volunteerism, Texas CLE would be scarcer—and more expensive. The State Bar and its members are indebted to those who strive to improve the profession by educating their colleagues.

A Diverse Mix of Offerings

- TexasBarCLE.com, featuring a searchable database of upcoming courses; The Online Library, an ongoing repository of downloadable course materials; and The Online Classroom, devoted to web-based programs approved for MCLE participatory credit. This website is customizable, allowing our members to see the latest offerings in practice areas that interest them.
- over 20 multi-day, advanced-level courses, many designed to provide high-level CLE for specialists and those planning to take the specialization exams
- one- and two-day institutes on a variety of intermediate and specialized topics, many cosponsored by Sections
- recording of programs for replay as DVDs, audio CDs, and MP3s, as well as via the Web
- course books in hard copy and electronic form
- live webcasts with the opportunity to submit questions to speakers
- showcase seminars at the Annual Meeting
- DVD CLE kits that local bars, firms and companies can use to present MCLE-accredited videos with accompanying written materials
- reference works and practice manuals developed by TexasBarBooks for both hard copy and digital publication
- our TexasBarSolutions service, offering guidance and discounts to firms on CLE, books, and online resources

Discounts & Partnerships

TexasBarCLE offers a discount to Section members on any program a Section cosponsors. Section members can also benefit when Sections work with TexasBarCLE and Texas Bar Books & Systems. Course discounts are also available to TYLA members, legal assistants, and legal administrators. Qualifying judges attend courses at no charge.

Market Research

Lawyers demand products that take less time and target the precise problem the lawyer faces now. Our goal is to deliver high-quality CLE programs and products in a variety of media to Texas lawyers whenever and wherever desired—on exactly the topic needed, without the necessity to pay for more CLE than the lawyer wants.

CLE vs. MCLE

Because of the similarity of initials, CLE is often confused with MCLE, which refers to the regulatory department of the Bar that administers the 15-hour-per-year requirement. In short: “CLE” refers to programs, and “MCLE” refers to regulation.

Competition

Texas lawyers get CLE from over a thousand providers, most of whom offer good programs. This greatly complicates our task of selecting new programs to produce. For instance, a competitor’s program may meet the needs of some Texas lawyers—say, those in the large city where it is held—but it compromises our ability to produce a similar program in a cost-effective manner.

Such competition and conflicts occur with sufficient frequency that the traditional live seminar side of our mission is not likely to grow as rapidly as it once did.

Technology

TexasBarCLE strives to be on the cutting edge of distance education technologies used to deliver CLE to Bar members scattered across the broad reaches of our state. TexasBarCLE has explored live satellite, video conferencing, live webcasts, and live telephone seminars as well as videotaped seminars. A pioneer in audio and video education, the Department now archives nearly all of its programming for online access anytime.

As the foremost CLE provider in the state, TexasBarCLE produced well over one quarter of all of the MCLE hours reported by Texas lawyers last year.

Furthermore, TexasBarCLE maintains a collection of its course materials since 1998, available on its website in the Online Library. Searchable and downloadable, materials may be purchased individually or with unlimited access for a fee; discount arrangements are also available. Sections that do their CLE with TexasBarCLE know that all the effort that goes into preparing a seminar is not only recorded with excellence, but is available to their members everywhere.

Revenue

TexasBarCLE is a major revenue source, with income and expenses flowing through the Bar's general fund. CLE profits help extend substantially the time between increases in Bar dues.

Course registrations and product sales are expected to generate sufficient funds to cover expenses and overhead. Advanced-level, multi-day courses typically produce a substantial excess of revenues over expenses; other programs may not.

To meet revenue goals, we find it is sometimes prudent to replace a recurring program of limited interest with a program that has broader appeal and thus better prospects for a reasonable return on the Bar's investment.

Professional Staff

TexasBarCLE staff are among the most experienced and successful in the CLE business, receiving awards from the Association of Continuing Legal Education, as well as from the ABA, recognizing the excellence of its seminars.

A planning attorney leads each team that coordinates CLE presented by the Department. Our experienced facilities coordination team uses the State Bar's bargaining power to get the best rates at meeting facilities. And our Video Production team—recognized with media awards—provides professional taping of seminars and on-site audio-visual support to speakers. The Bar's studio facility is a great resource, designed to create excellent educational videos which become available online. Collectively, these teams produce some of the best CLE in the country in collaboration with Section members, CLE committee members, and other volunteers.

Service to the Profession

Judges. All TexasBarCLE offerings—including online classes and video replays—are free to judges.

Access to Justice. All legal aid attorneys receive free Online Library subscriptions and have access to all video CLE. TexasBarCLE also works with various Sections and Texas Lawyers Care to provide live CLE at low cost to those in need.

The Duty to Serve All Texas Lawyers. Among CLE providers, TexasBarCLE alone has the responsibility to provide access to excellent CLE to Texas lawyers

everywhere. For instance, another provider's program may meet the needs of some lawyers—say, those in the large city where it is held—but TexasBarCLE provides access to almost all of its programs to lawyers everywhere via its website and DVDs. TexasBarCLE supports local bars and Sections by offering them the lowest possible rate for Custom CLE programs which they cosponsor.

Holding Down Bar Dues. TexasBarCLE is a major revenue source. CLE profits help extend substantially the time between increases in Bar dues. Very few CLE providers commit to

supporting the legal profession in this way, and Sections which cosponsor seminars with TexasBarCLE are part of this service.

Quality

Without consistently high quality, TexasBarCLE would have neither attendance nor revenue to worry about. We frequently review records on attendance, revenue, and—through registrant questionnaires—course quality. Our best claim to quality is that we place our lawyer-customers in touch with excellent lawyer-faculties.

Our standard of quality assurance is that those who do it well should be those who teach it.

EDUCATION
BY THE BAR,
FOR THE BARSM