



JACQUELYNN B. ROTHSTEIN
DIRECTOR

Supreme Court of Wisconsin

BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS
110 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 310
MADISON, WI 53703-3328
TELEPHONE: (608) 266-9760
FAX: (608) 266-1196
bbe@wicourts.gov

September 9, 2026

Chief Justice Jill J. Karofsky
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Rebecca F. Dallet
Justice Brian K. Hagedorn
Justice Janet C. Protasiewicz
Justice Susan M. Crawford
Justice Chris Taylor
16 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Dear Chief Justice and Justices:

On behalf of the Board of Bar Examiners, I write in response to Rule Petition 26-03 relating to approved CLE hours for participation. At its meeting on August 20, 2026, the Board reviewed the petition and had no objection to it. However, the Board is recommending an amendment to the petition that would create an additional category for earning continuing legal education credit, that is, through participation on the Board of Bar Examiners. Much like the Office of Lawyer Regulation proposal, allowing CLE credit for service on the Board of Bar Examiners will similarly reflect the professional development, public service, and time commitment that is associated with such participation. Attached is the proposed amendment.

BBE members are appointed by the Court to serve three year terms and attend eight meetings throughout the year. In advance of each meeting, Board members review both open and closed session materials. The closed session materials, which are confidential, include investigative reports about pending applications as well as the applicable Supreme Court Rules. During the closed session portion of each meeting, members discuss those reports and determine whether those applicants should be cleared for admission or should be issued an at-risk letter. Applicants who receive an at-risk letter may seek a hearing before the Board at which testimony is taken. Following any such closed session hearing, the Board deliberates and ultimately decides whether to clear or deny an applicant's admission to the practice of law.

The amount of time needed to prepare for those meetings and the actual time spent at them is both significant and lengthy. Board members actively engage in a critical review of the investigative reports and supporting material, question witnesses during hearings, and deliberate with one another on the matter before reaching a decision. Through this process members must consider

Board: Brian D. Anderson-Chairperson, Green Bay; Scott Needham-Vice Chair, Hudson
Todd Dickey, Green Bay; Diane Fremgen, Madison; Jason Hanson, Madison; Ryan Poe-Gavlinksi, Waunakee; Peter Sorce, Germantown
Megan Stelljes, Madison; David Strifling, Mequon; Andrew Turner, Madison; Morgan Wilbur, Menomonie

the Supreme Court Rules and the attorney admission process more generally.

Board members have noted the educational benefit they receive from that process, and consistently find their service to be professionally rewarding, especially because of the strong participatory element associated with it. Over the course of any given year, Board members will routinely spend anywhere between 15-20 hours in hearings, and perhaps as much time or more reading through the accompanying materials, thereby warranting a CLE award of 7.5 credits per reporting cycle.

Finally, allowing CLE credit for service on the BBE will be an added incentive for attorneys to volunteer for the Board and will further allow those attorneys to partially offset the time spent away from their legal practice by enabling them to earn a portion of their required CLE credits.

The Board appreciates the Court's consideration of this amendment and urges its adoption. Kindly contact me should you have any questions about this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn B. Rothstein".

Jacquelyn B. Rothstein
Executive Director & General Counsel

Attachment

cc: Bridget Schoenborn, Supreme Court Commissioner
Deputy Rules Clerk

Create SCR 31.05 (8) Each hour of service on the board of bar examiners may be used to satisfy the requirements of SCR 31.02, to a maximum of 7.5 hours of continuing legal education credit per reporting period, provided the board of bar examiners maintains a roster of verifying service.