

# Supreme Court of Texas

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Misc. Docket No. 26-9022

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## Preliminary Approval of Amendments to Article XII of the State Bar Rules

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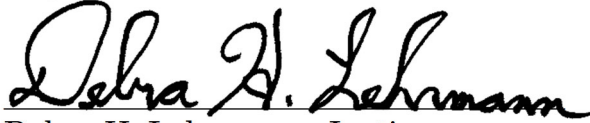
**ORDERED** that:

1. The Court invites public comments on proposed amendments to Article XII of the State Bar Rules.
2. Comments regarding the proposed amendments should be submitted in writing to [rulescomments@txcourts.gov](mailto:rulescomments@txcourts.gov) by June 1, 2026.
3. The Court will issue an order finalizing the amendments after the close of the comment period. The Court may change the amendments in response to public comments. The Court expects the amendments to take effect on January 1, 2027.
4. The Clerk is directed to:
  - a. file a copy of this order with the Secretary of State;
  - b. send a copy of this order to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each elected member of the Legislature;
  - c. cause a copy of this order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*; and
  - d. submit a copy of this order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

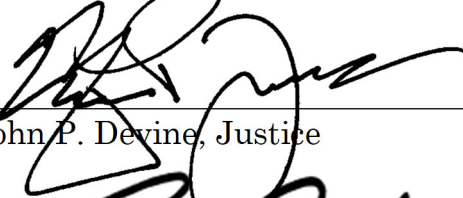
Dated: March 27, 2026.



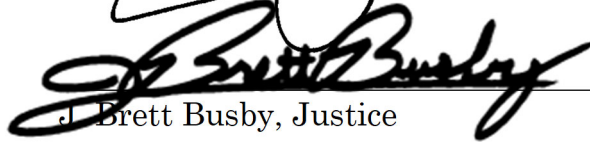
James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



J. Brett Busby, Justice



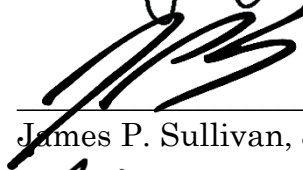
Jane N. Bland, Justice



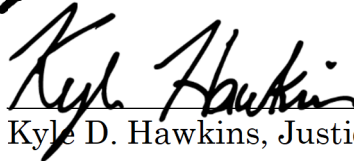
Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice



James P. Sullivan, Justice



Kyle D. Hawkins, Justice

**ARTICLE XII  
MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

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**Section 4. Accreditation**

A. The Committee ~~shall~~must develop criteria for ~~the accreditation of~~ continuing legal education activities and ~~shall~~must designate the number of hours to be earned by participation in such activities, ~~as approved by the Committee. In order for an activity to~~ be accredited, the activity's subject matter must directly relate to legal subjects and the legal profession, including professional responsibility, legal ethics, or law practice management. The Committee may, in appropriate cases, extend accreditation to qualified activities that have already occurred.

The Committee ~~shall~~must not extend credit to activities completed in the ordinary course of the practice of law, in the performance of regular employment, ~~as a volunteer service to clients or the general public,~~ as a volunteer service to government entities, or in a member's regular duties on a committee, section, or division of any bar related organization. The Committee may extend accredited status, subject to periodic review, to a qualified sponsor for its overall continuing legal education curriculum. ~~No e~~Examinations ~~shall~~must not be required.

B. Self-study credit may be given for individual viewing or listening to audio, video, or digital media; reading written material; attending organized in-office educational programs; or other activities approved by the Committee. No more than three hours of credit may be given during a compliance year for self-study activities. Time spent viewing or listening to audio, video, or digital media as part of an organized CLE activity approved by the Committee counts as conventional continuing legal education and is not subject to the self-study limitation.

C. Credit may be earned through teaching or participating in an accredited CLE activity. Credit shall be granted for preparation time and presentation time, including preparation credit for repeated presentations.

D. Credit may be earned through legal research-based writing upon application to the Committee provided the activity (1) produced material published or to be published in the form of an article, chapter, or book written, in whole or in part, by the applicant; (2) contributed substantially to the continuing legal education of the applicant and other attorneys; and (3) is not done in the ordinary course of the practice of law, the performance of regular employment, or as a service to clients.

E. The Committee may, in appropriate cases, charge a reasonable fee to the sponsor for accrediting CLE activities.

**F.** A member who holds a full-time faculty position in any law school which is approved by the American Bar Association may be credited as fulfilling the requirements of this article, except as to the minimum requirements for CLE in legal ethics and professional responsibility. A member who holds a part-time faculty position in any such law school may claim participatory credit for the actual hours of class instruction time not to exceed 12 hours per compliance year, except as to the minimum requirements for CLE in legal ethics and professional responsibility.

**G.** Credit to meet the minimum educational requirement will be extended to attorneys who are members of the United States Congress or the Texas Legislature for each year in which they serve.

**H.** No credit shall be given for activities directed primarily to persons preparing for admission to practice law.

**I.** Credit, not to exceed 30 hours in any compliance year, may be earned for attending a law school class after admission to practice in Texas provided (1) that the member officially registered for the class with the law school; and (2) that the member completed the course as required by the terms of registration. Credit for approved attendance at law school classes shall be for the actual number of hours of class instruction time the member is in attendance at the law school course.

**J.** Credit, not to exceed 3 hours in a compliance year, may be earned by providing free basic civil legal services to the indigent through a program approved by the Supreme Court to receive basic civil legal services grant funds under Government Code sections 51.942–.943. Credit may be earned at the rate of 1 credit hour for every 5 hours of actual services provided.