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12/03/2020
Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

No. ADM2020-00428

ORDER REGARDING 2021 CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 13, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court declared a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee government and activated a Continuity of Operations Plan for the courts of Tennessee. See Tenn. Const. Art. VI, § 1; Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 16-3-501 to 16-3-504 (2009); Moore-Pennoyer v. State, 515 S.W.3d 271, 276-77 (Tenn. 2017); Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 49. By separate orders filed on March 13th and March 27th, 2020, this Court temporarily suspended Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 21, sections 3.01(c) and 4.02(c) for 2019 and 2020 to the extent these provisions impose a maximum limit of eight (8) hours of Distance Learning for required continuing legal education hours for lawyers licensed in Tennessee and for lawyers seeking reactivation or reinstatement pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, section 30 and Rule 21.

The state of emergency declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect as evidenced by this Court's November 17, 2020 order suspending jury trials until January 31, 2021. Accordingly, in light of the ongoing pandemic and state of emergency, this Court hereby extends through 2021 the temporary suspension of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 21, sections 3.01(c) and 4.02(c) to the extent these provisions impose a maximum limit of eight (8) hours of Distance Learning for required continuing legal education hours for lawyers licensed in Tennessee and for lawyers seeking reactivation or reinstatement in 2021 pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, section 30 and Rule 21. Effective immediately and through December 31, 2021, lawyers may earn all or any portion of the required continuing legal education hours for 2021, or for purposes of seeking reactivation or reinstatement in 2021, through approved Distance Learning completed through December 31, 2021.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM