Supreme Court of Kentucky

2020-15

ORDER

IN RE: DEADLINE FOR REPORTING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

On March 6, 2020, Governor Beshear entered Executive Order 2020-215 and declared a State of Emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency in the Commonwealth. To stop the spread of COVID-19, the Governor and public health officials have encouraged Kentuckians to stay home, limit in-person contact, practice social distancing, and avoid crowds. In light of these measures and to protect the health and safety of court employees, elected officials, and the general public, the Supreme Court of Kentucky has entered several administrative orders restricting court services and limiting in-person proceedings.

Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 6.645(1) requires every person licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth to complete and certify a minimum of 12 credit hours, including 2 credit hours dedicated to ethics, in continuing legal education (CLE) activities by June 30 of each year. The current COVID-19 emergency limits the ability of attorneys to attend live CLE programming. Although the Supreme Court Rules were amended in 2018 to allow all CLE credits to be earned through non-live programming, many attorneys either prefer live programs or belong to a local or national organization that has had to postpone or cancel its annual conference or live CLE programming for 2020. Additionally, finding free or low-cost on-demand programming can be challenging, leading to uncertainty and fear of financial hardship regarding the CLE requirement for the 2019-2020 educational year.

Accordingly, to provide more flexibility to Kentucky attorneys during the COVID-19 emergency, the Supreme Court hereby ORDERS under Section 116 of the Kentucky Constitution that the 2019-2020 CLE deadline under SCR 6.645(1) is moved to June 30, 2021, at which time every person licensed to

practice law in the Commonwealth must complete and certify 24 CLE credits, 4 of which must be ethics. The reporting deadline under SCR 6.645(2) for the combined 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 educational years shall be August 10, 2021.

Entered this 31st day of March 2020.

CHIEF JUSTICE

All sitting; all concur.