



CLE Essentials for Attorneys

Who We Are

The RI Bar CLE Committee is co-chaired by Krista J. Schmitz, Esq., and Collin E. Bailey, Esq. The RI Bar Annual Meeting Planning Committee is chaired by Cassandra L. Feeney, Esq. The RI Bar CLE Department is staffed by CLE Director Madeline Benner and CLE Coordinator Heather Chea.

What is Continuing Legal Education (CLE)?

CLE consists of professional education for attorneys that takes place after their initial admission to the bar. These programs extend the practicing attorney's knowledge beyond what law school offers and keep them up-to-date with relevant changes in the law.

What We Do

The RI Bar is Rhode Island's premier provider of legal education. We collaborate with the CLE Committee and Annual Meeting Planning Committee to offer over 80 programs annually, including free CLEs through committees and our Aon-sponsored ethics seminar. The CLE Committee helps plan our annual CLE seminars, while the Annual Meeting Planning Committee develops two days of programming for the Annual Meeting.

RI MCLE Requirements

Note: The RI MCLE and Supreme Court handle all CLE requirements and credit filings. We supply the programming to help you meet those requirements.

The RI Supreme Court requires attorneys practicing in RI to complete 10 hours of CLE in each MCLE reporting year, inclusive of at least two (2) legal ethics credits. Starting July 1, 2025, attorneys will also be required to obtain one (1) credit hour in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Additionally, RI new admittees must complete the RI Bridge the Gap course within the first full MCLE reporting year after being admitted. The reporting year is July 1-June 30. For the complete MCLE Rules and Regulations, please visit courts.ri.gov.

Easiest Ways to Obtain Credits

The best way to earn credits varies based on your needs and preferences. We offer live programming with both in-person and virtual options, as well as a robust on-demand video CLE catalog. Attorneys can also obtain credits by teaching a CLE course.

Finding Our CLE Programs

Access to all of our programming can be found on our website at ribar.com/calendar. Swipe through our monthly calendar to view and register for upcoming live programs. Click on the "Online CLE" button above the calendar to view our on-demand catalog.

Presenting a CLE

To present a CLE during our regular sessions or at the Annual Meeting, fill out the relevant proposal form found on our website. The appropriate committee will review your proposal and may approve, deny, or request further information or suggestions. Upon approval, you will work with the CLE Director to finalize the details.

Joining a Committee

Committee membership supports and strengthens professional lives and builds relationships that unite our community. The CLE Committee meets monthly from September to May. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee meets monthly from September to December. To sign up for these or any other RI Bar committee, email NaKeisha Torres at ntorres@ribar.com or visit our website.

RI Bar Annual Meeting

The RI Bar Annual Meeting is a two-day event held every June at the RI Convention Center. We provide over 30 CLE options, offering many opportunities to obtain your required CLE credits. In addition to the educational sessions, the meeting includes ample networking opportunities, great food, and the chance to meet with various legal industry exhibitors. With over 1,000 attendees every year, it's a fantastic chance to connect with colleagues and stay current with the latest developments in the law.

Filing Your Credits

Attorneys can access their account on the MCLE & Payment for Indigent Defense Services Portal found at courts.ri.gov under Attorney Resources. For filing assistance, please contact the RI MCLE.

Quick Contacts

RI Bar Association: (401) 421-5740
CLE Director: mbenner@ribar.com
CLE Coordinator: hchea@ribar.com
CLE Email: cle@ribar.com

RI Bar website: ribar.com
CLE Calendar: ribar.com/calendar
CLE On-Demand: ribar.inreachce.com

RI MCLE: mcleinfo@courts.ri.gov | (401) 222-4942 | courts.ri.gov