

## **New Lawyer Mentoring Program Rule**

*(adopted by the Oregon Supreme Court December 6, 2010; revised January 16, 2013 and February 9, 2016)*

- 1. Applicability.** All lawyers admitted to practice in Oregon after January 1, 2011 must complete the requirements of the Oregon State Bar's New Lawyer Mentoring Program (NLMP) except as otherwise provided in this rule.
- 2. Administration of the NLMP; MCLE Credit.**
  - 2.1 The OSB Board of Governors shall develop the NLMP curriculum and requirements in consultation with the Supreme Court and shall be responsible for its administration. The OSB Board of Governors shall appoint a standing committee to advise the BOG regarding the curriculum and administration of the NLMP.
  - 2.2 The OSB Board of Governors may establish a fee to be paid by new lawyers participating in the NLMP.
  - 2.3 The OSB Board of Governors shall establish by regulation the number of Minimum Continuing Legal Education credits that may be earned by new lawyers and mentors for participation in the NLMP.
- 3. New Lawyer's Responsibilities.**
  - 3.1 Unless deferred or exempt under this rule, new lawyers must enroll in the manner prescribed by the OSB.
  - 3.2 The new lawyer shall be responsible for ensuring that all requirements of the NLMP are completed within the requisite period including without limitation, filing a Completion Certificate executed by the assigned mentor attesting to successful completion of the NLMP.
- 4. Appointment of Mentors.**
  - 4.1 The Supreme Court may appoint mentors recommended by the NLMP Committee. Except as otherwise provided in this rule, to qualify for appointment, the mentor must be a member of the OSB in good standing, with at least five years of experience in the practice of law, and have a reputation for competence and ethical and professional conduct.
  - 4.2 Attorneys who are not members of the Oregon State Bar, but are qualified to represent clients before the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office, are eligible to serve as mentors, provided they meet the other requirements of Section 4.1 of this rule.
  - 4.3 Attorneys who are not members of the Oregon State Bar may be appointed with the recommendation of the NLMP Administrator.
  - 4.4 Attorneys described in Section 4.2 or Section 4.3 must be licensed to practice law in at least one U.S. state, possession, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia, and shall be subject to the same additional criteria included in Section 4.1 of this rule.

## **5. Deferrals.**

5.1 The following new lawyers are eligible for a temporary deferral from the NLMP requirements:

5.1.1. New lawyers on active membership status whose principal office is outside the State of Oregon and for whom the OSB determines that no mentorship can be arranged conveniently; and

5.1.2. New lawyers serving as judicial clerks; and

5.1.3. New lawyers who are not engaged in the practice of law.

5.2 The NLMP Administrator may approve deferrals for good cause shown. Such deferrals shall be subject to the continued approval of the administrator.

5.3 A new lawyer who is granted a deferral under section 5.1.1 of the Rule and who, within two years of beginning to practice law in any jurisdiction, establishes a principal office within the State of Oregon, must enroll in the next NLMP session. A new lawyer whose participation in the NLMP was deferred under sections 5.1.2 or 5.1.3 of this Rule must enroll in the next NLMP session following the conclusion of the judicial clerkship or the lawyer's entering into the practice of law.

## **6. Exemptions.**

6.1. New lawyers who have practiced law in another jurisdiction for two years or more are exempt from the requirements of the NLMP.

6.2. The NLMP Administrator may grant exemptions for good cause shown.

## **7. Certificate of Completion; Noncompliance.**

7.1. Each new lawyer is expected to complete the NLMP by the deadline assigned to them by the OSB unless the new lawyer has been granted an extension of time. The Certificate of Completion must be filed with the bar on or before that date.

7.2. A new lawyer who fails to file a Certificate of Completion by the assigned deadline shall be given written notice of noncompliance and shall have 60 days from the date of the notice to cure the noncompliance. Additional time for completion of the NLMP may be granted for good cause shown. If the noncompliance is not cured within the time granted, the OSB Executive Director shall recommend to the Supreme Court that the affected member be suspended from membership in the bar.

**8. Reinstatement.** A new lawyer suspended for failing to timely complete the NLMP may seek reinstatement by filing with OSB Executive Director a Certificate of Completion and a statement attesting that the applicant did not engage in the practice of law during the period of suspension, except where authorized to do so, together with the required fee for the NLMP and a reinstatement fee of \$100. Upon receipt of the foregoing, the Executive Director shall recommend to the Supreme Court that the member be reinstated. The reinstatement is effective upon approval by the Court. Reinstatement under this Rule shall have no effect upon the member's status under any proceeding under the Bar Rules of Procedure.