

**SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT  
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**TO:** Members of the Vermont Bar  
**FROM:** Robert Greemore, Court Administrator  
**RE:** Promulgated Rule Amendments  
**DATE:** April 1, 2010

For your information, I enclose the following:

**I. RULE AMENDMENTS RECENTLY PROMULGATED BY THE VERMONT SUPREME COURT**

**a. Amendments to the Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education**

The amendments to §§ 3(b) and 4(a)(1) address the issue of accessibility to quality professionalism courses while respecting the underlying intent and objective of the rule: to create a forum in which legal professionals explore and reflect on the meaning and goals of professionalism in contemporary legal practice. The requirement in Rule 3 that professionalism courses be “face to face” was eliminated, and replaced by the option of attending via “teleconference, interactive television or on-line.” Rule 4(a)(1) was further amended to make it clear that, in order to qualify as “live” credit, the instructor and attendees must be able to participate and interact simultaneously, in real time.

The amendments to §§ 6 (b), (c) and (d) and 7(b) improve efficiencies during the relicensing period of attorneys by removing the requirement that the form which indicates compliance with the Continuing Legal Education Rules be in the form of an affidavit. This will allow for on-line continuing legal education reporting.

The amendment to § 8(b) clarifies the intent that the twenty hours required for reinstatement to active status must include the categories and restrictions of the standard reporting requirements in §§ 3 and 4 of the Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

These rule amendments, promulgated on March 31, 2010, and effective May 31, 2010, can be found on our website at the following address:

[http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/LC/Statutes%20and%20Rules/PROMULGATEDMCLE3\\_b\\_4\\_a\\_6\\_b\\_-\\_d\\_7\\_b\\_8\\_b\\_.pdf](http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/LC/Statutes%20and%20Rules/PROMULGATEDMCLE3_b_4_a_6_b_-_d_7_b_8_b_.pdf)

## **b. Emergency Amendments to Administrative Order No. 41 – Licensing of Attorneys**

The amendments to §§ 1 and 5 add \$10.00 to the bi-annual licensing fees for those attorneys who use the online licensing service and \$20.00 to the bi-annual licensing fees for those attorneys who do not use the online licensing service. The \$10.00 fee reflects the additional cost of processing attorney licensing electronically, which includes credit card and Automated Clearing House (ACH) processing fees as well as the internet portal service provider fee. The \$20.00 fee reflects the additional cost of hiring a temporary employee during the relicensing period to process attorney licensing forms and payment through the postal service.

Comments on this emergency amendment can be sent by September 1, 2010 to:

Robert Greemore, Court Administrator  
Office of Court Administrator  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0701

These rule amendments, promulgated on March 31, 2010, and effective May 1, 2010, can be found on our website at the following address:

<http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/LC/Statutes%20and%20Rules/EMERGENCYPROMULGATED41sec1and5amendments.pdf>

## **II. REMINDER TO REDACT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS**

The Supreme Court is concerned with protecting the privacy of social security numbers of persons involved in court proceedings.

In 2001, the Court promulgated procedural rules requiring attorneys and self-represented litigants to redact the social security number from any paper before filing it with the trial court unless the SSN was specifically requested by the trial court. See V.R.C.P. 5(g); V.R.Cr.P. 49(c).

The Supreme Court has asked the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure to propose a procedural rule that social security numbers be redacted from all papers filed with the Supreme Court prior to filing.

Pending promulgation of such a rule, the Court at this time requests that the social security number be redacted from any paper filed with the Supreme Court, and in particular the Court requests that the SSN be redacted from all papers in the printed case, even if the SSN was requested by the trial court and was included on the paper filed with the trial court.

## **III. OTHER REMINDERS**

Attorneys are reminded of their obligation under A.O. 41 to keep this office informed of their current mailing and email addresses.

You may send changes to [JUD-AttyLicensing@state.vt.us](mailto:JUD-AttyLicensing@state.vt.us). Your cooperation is very much appreciated.