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Guerilla CLE

I read with delight Jim Mitchell's article on the MCLE system in the February 2001 issue of *Arizona Attorney* and the related positive letters in the April issue. I thought this would be an appropriate time to share with the rest of the Bar membership a plan that I recently submitted to the MCLE committee for a no-cost CLE roundtable group. The committee "determined that it appears to be a sound plan and a great idea," and here it is.

Taking into consideration that the "sponsored" and "in-house" distinctions for CLE classes have now been eliminated (beginning with the 2000-2001 educational year), and making full use of the six hours of CLE credit available for *teaching* a one-hour CLE class with written materials, I recently established a no-cost CLE roundtable group. Here is the "recipe" for success.

Find seven attorneys (including yourself) who are tired of paying an average of \$30 per hour for commercial CLE seminars. Be careful: The group size must be at least five attorneys (one instructor and four students) to meet the MCLE rules. Each attorney prepares a one-hour CLE training lecture with written materials on his or her area of expertise. All seven attorneys meet on the scheduled seminar date and take turns delivering their one-hour training lecture to the other six attorneys in the group. Each attorney receives six hours of CLE credit for teaching their one-hour lecture and receives an additional six hours of credit for attending the lectures presented by the other six attorneys. That's *12 hours* of valid CLE credit for each participating attorney earned in a *one-day* seminar that costs the attorneys absolutely *nothing* out of pocket.

My group settled on the 12 hour

total goal (instead of 15) because we did not want to try to decipher whether any of our lectures would qualify for the always-confusing "ethics" credit. Plus, this group size affords all the attendee attorneys the ability to lecture for one hour, allowing each the opportunity to acquire some public speaking/teaching experience, and the ability to market their expertise to six other potential future referral sources.

Unfortunately, we as attorneys are not yet able to delete the word "mandatory" that precedes CLE. However, using this plan, you can still get the majority of your hours, market your practice to six other attorneys, get some teaching experience and take your hard-earned dollars out of the commercial MCLE seminar vacuum. If you have questions, comments or concerns, e-mail me at dghebert@azbar.org.

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