

## Demystifying CLE



How can you find CLE opportunities that fit your schedule? Your State Bar CLE department makes these available from your desktop computer, by telephone, on audio and videotape, and live, with fellow Bar members. The goal is “to provide a high-quality learning experience, from a diverse faculty presenting seminars and publications, regarding topics of interest to members throughout Arizona.” This is accomplished with nearly 90 live seminars each year, 160 hours of online programs and a growing number of video-replay choices. Currently, we are exploring options to continue last year’s successful **satellite and live webcast presentations** of national programs. The CLE Department is committed to ensuring you have access to courses of interest to you and of benefit to your practice.

Although most topics begin as a live seminar experience, it is becoming increasingly frequent that a program may be offered in a live, online and a video-replay format. Our goal is to enable all Bar members to have access to our high-quality seminars. Although live seminars have always been the mainstay of the CLE offerings, the popularity of **online seminars** has grown tremendously. You are able to access 90 seminars, many of which offer interactive credit, and address a full range of legal topics from your own computers at a time when it is convenient to you. We expect the desire to hear live speakers and network with colleagues will never be replaced, but the online opportunities are here.

In response to your suggestions, there have been format changes to some of our live offerings. This year you will have an opportunity to participate in **the Boardroom Brownbag series**. The programs will include management topics

such as client development tips and operating a business; personal topics including protecting assets (yours and your client’s), stress management, and a professional development series focusing on practice skills.

Another new endeavor is **CLE On the Sea**. This is a chance to get a full year of CLE while enjoying a cruise to Ensenada. Leaving on a Friday evening from Los Angeles, the program offers a weekend away and the least expensive full year of CLE our department can offer. This year’s cruise will provide a real estate update, an ethics component and eight hours of real estate specialization credit.

Currently being developed is the offering of seminar video-replays outside of the Tucson-Phoenix locales, allowing members to have access to a comprehensive CLE curriculum without a drive. Staff is organizing the 2003 replay schedule and welcomes your program ideas for replays in your town. Completing the full array of services are the **audiotapes and videotapes** and the **publications library** authored by an enormously talented lineup of Arizona attorneys and judges.

The cost of CLE is an issue frequently raised by members, many suggesting that it should be less costly given that it is mandatory. Although being mandatory may increase the numbers attending some seminars, programs still have many fixed costs that increase as the numbers rise. Because the Bar is a nonprofit organization, it is important that the fees charged cover the costs of programs. Given that predictions regarding attendance can be difficult to gauge, program budgets are based on how well a program historically performs, the number of lawyers practicing in that area of law, and the time of year the program is held. The result is that some programs will

be successful in meeting the CLE needs of members and perform well financially and others will not fare as well financially. But we monitor our successes and make future adjustments when we fall short. Our objective is to maintain an overall self-sustaining budget so that member dues are not used to supplement CLE endeavors.

Our thanks to the faculty and seminar chairs who make an enormous investment in putting together our CLE seminars and publications. Through the ideas, commitment and efforts of the hundreds of volunteer faculty, the Bar is able to offer learning opportunities that are second to none. You are all to be applauded for your dedication.

A special thanks also to the CLE Committee, chaired by Laura LoBianco, for their guidance to the staff. Meeting bimonthly, committee members further the department goal of providing timely and useful programs and publications. They volunteer their time to chair seminars, author publications, critique online programs and assist in developing the yearly curriculum. Their commitment and service greatly contribute to this organization’s success.

Your CLE staff, led by Lisa Deane, welcomes feedback regarding what is offered, and your ideas for future programs, and invites you to review our Web site, <http://cle.azbar.org>, to learn more about what is available to you. If there is anything the CLE staff may do to assist, please contact Lisa at (602) 340-7316 or [Lisa.Deane@staff.azbar.org](mailto:Lisa.Deane@staff.azbar.org). ▀