

Continuing Legal Education Requirement for Newly Admitted New Jersey Lawyers

A “newly admitted lawyer” is defined by the Board on Continuing Legal Education as a lawyer who becomes an active member of the New Jersey bar for the first time.

Commencement of the compliance reporting period for newly admitted lawyers is deferred until January 1 of the year immediately following admission to the New Jersey Bar. Newly admitted lawyers will automatically be assigned to a compliance group based on their respective birthdays.

Every active lawyer is required to complete twenty-four credit hours of continuing legal education every two years. Of those twenty-four credits, at least four credits must be in ethics and/or professionalism. In addition to that general requirement, a newly admitted lawyer must obtain fifteen credit hours in any five of the following nine subject areas during the newly admitted lawyer’s first compliance period: New Jersey basic estate administration; New Jersey basic estate planning; New Jersey civil or criminal trial preparation; New Jersey family law practice; New Jersey real estate closing procedures; New Jersey trust and business accounting; New Jersey landlord/tenant practice; New Jersey municipal court practice; and New Jersey law office management.

A lawyer who has completed at least the first full year’s requirements of the Skills and Methods Course will be considered to have met the requirement for a newly admitted lawyer.

New Jersey attorneys are permitted to take up to one-half of their continuing legal education credit hours in a compliance period through courses offered in alternative verifiable learning formats. Alternative verifiable learning format courses shall mean any videotape, audiotape, remote place viewing or on-line internet computer presentations, satellite simulcast, teleconferencing, videoconferencing, internet computer self-study, or other type of remote learning format authorized by the Board.

For lawyers who were admitted to the New Jersey bar in 2009, your continuing legal education requirement began on January 1, 2010. If your birthday is during the period from January 1 through June 30, you are in Compliance Reporting Group 1. You must obtain 24 credit hours by December 31, 2011 and will certify your compliance on the 2012 Annual Attorney Registration Statement. At least four credits must be in ethics and/or professionalism, at least fifteen credits must be in any five of the nine NJ subject areas for newly admitted lawyers, and the balance of credits in any legal, judicial, or other educational activity accredited by the Board. Lawyers whose birthdays are during the period from July 1 to December 31 are in Compliance Reporting Group 2. Lawyers in Compliance Group 2 must obtain 17 credit hours by December 31, 2010 and will certify compliance on the 2011 Annual Attorney Registration Statement. Two credits must be in ethics and/or professionalism and fifteen credits in any five of the nine NJ subject areas for newly admitted lawyers. No more than one-half of the total requirement can be in alternative formats.

During the first compliance period, a newly admitted lawyer may obtain credit for continuing legal education courses taken after his or her graduation from law school but before admission to the NJ bar, so long as those courses were not taken more than 12 months prior to the lawyer’s date of admission to the New Jersey bar.

Newly admitted lawyers may refer to the chart below to assist you in determining your continuing legal education requirement based on your date of admission to the NJ bar and compliance group.

Year Admitted	Requirement Begins	Compliance Group 1	Compliance Group 2
2009	January 1, 2010	24 credits by 12/31/11	17 credits by 12/31/10
2010	January 1, 2011	17 credits by 12/31/11	24 credits by 12/31/12
2011	January 1, 2012	24 credits by 12/31/13	17 credits by 12/31/12
2012	January 1, 2013	17 credits by 12/31/13	24 credits by 12/31/14
2013	January 1, 2014	24 credits by 12/31/15	17 credits by 12/31/14
2014	January 1, 2015	17 credits by 12/31/15	24 credits by 12/31/16