

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

In re Amendments to Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

2017 OK 103 (Okla. 2017) · Decided December 18, 2017

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court approved amendments to Rules 1, 2, and 3 of the Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education. The order addresses annual continuing legal education requirements for Oklahoma judges and justices, approved courses, and recordkeeping by the Administrative Office of the Courts, with the amendments stated to be effective January 1, 2017.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	All Justices
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	December 18, 2017
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Supreme Court of Oklahoma exercised its superintending and administrative authority to amend its rules governing mandatory judicial continuing legal education.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Oklahoma Supreme Court order; the opinion text states that it had not yet been released for publication and was subject to revision or withdrawal.

TOPICS

administrative law rulemaking separation of powers

PRACTICE AREAS

administrative law judicial administration legal education regulation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Oklahoma should amend Rules 1, 2, and 3 of the Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education under its constitutional superintending and administrative authority.

HOLDINGS

1. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma approved and adopted amendments to Rules 1, 2, and 3 of the Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education.
2. Judges of the Oklahoma District Courts, the Court of Civil Appeals, and the Court of Criminal Appeals, and justices of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, must complete at least twelve hours of mandatory judicial continuing legal education annually, subject to the amended rules governing qualifying programs, teaching credit, and administrative recordkeeping.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Pursuant to our general superintending control over all inferior courts, Okla. Const., art. 7, § 4, and our general administrative authority over state courts, Okla. Const., art. 7, § 6, we hereby amend Rules 1, 2, and 3 of the Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education, 5 O.S., ch. 1, app. 4-B.”

“It is therefore ordered that the amended Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education are hereby approved and adopted and shall be effective from January 1, 2017.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Oklahoma Supreme Court determined that amendments were needed to the rules governing mandatory judicial continuing legal education. The amendments addressed the judges and justices subject to annual education requirements, qualifying courses and programs, credit for teaching and presentations, and recordkeeping by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court acted in conference on its own authority and approved amendments to Rules 1, 2, and 3 of the Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education. The amended rules were ordered adopted, included in the official publication of the Oklahoma Statutes, and made effective January 1, 2017.

DISPOSITION

approved