

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

Modification of Judicial Education Requirements for 2020-2021

2020 OK 34 · Decided May 18, 2020

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court temporarily modified mandatory judicial continuing legal education requirements for calendar years 2020 and 2021 in response to the COVID-19 emergency and cancellation of judicial education events. The order reduced the requirement from 12 hours per year to a combined total of 18 hours over the two-year period, with credit permitted in either year and 2019 carryover hours applicable.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	May 18, 2020
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Supreme Court of Oklahoma issued an administrative order modifying mandatory judicial continuing legal education requirements for calendar years 2020 and 2021 in response to the COVID-19 emergency and the cancellation of judicial education events.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Administrative order; not for official publication

TOPICS

administrative law

rulemaking

PRACTICE AREAS

administrative law

judicial administration

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether good cause existed to temporarily modify the mandatory judicial continuing legal education requirement for 2020 and 2021.
2. What temporary continuing legal education requirement should apply to judges and justices for those calendar years.

HOLDINGS

1. The annual requirement was temporarily reduced from twelve hours per year to a combined total of eighteen hours for calendar years 2020 and 2021, with the credit permitted to be earned in either or both years.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the MJCLE requirement for the calendar years 2020 and 2021, is reduced from 12 hours per year to a combined total of 18 hours, and any or all credit may be earned in one or both years.” (¶ 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Oklahoma's mandatory judicial continuing legal education rules required judges and justices to obtain twelve hours of education annually. The COVID-19 emergency, related court-operation changes, and cancellation of the 2020 Annual Oklahoma Judicial Conference, the Annual Sovereignty Symposium, and other educational programs made compliance more difficult.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The order was entered by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma in conference. No lower-court proceeding or adversarial appeal is identified.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

MODIFICATION OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020-2021 Skip to Main Content Accessibility Statement Help Contact Us e-payments Careers Home Courts Decisions Programs News Legal Research Court Records Quick Links OSCN Found Document:MODIFICATION OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020-2021 Previous Case Top Of Index This Point in Index Citationize Next Case Print Only MODIFICATION OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020-20212020 OK 34Decided: 05/18/2020THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA Cite as: 2020 OK 34, __ P.3d __ FOR PUBLICATION IN OBJ ONLY.

NOT FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATION. Modification of Judicial Education Requirements for 2020-2021 ORDER ¶1 Whereas Rule 4 of the Rules for Mandatory Judicial Continuing Legal Education. (Chapter 1, App. 4-B) requires all judges and justices to obtain twelve (12) hours annually of MJCLE; ¶2 Whereas the Governor of Oklahoma declared an Emergency on March 15, 2020, and the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals entered three joint orders dealing with the COVID-19 Emergency which altered the operation of the district courts through August

1, 2020 and suspended rules and procedures from March 16, 2020 to May18, 2020; ¶3 Whereas the emergency continues to exist and has resulted in the cancellation of the July 2020 Annual Oklahoma Judicial Conference and the June 2020 Annual Sovereignty Symposium and neither will be rescheduled.

Numerous other judicial education seminars and conferences have been cancelled for 2020; ¶4 Whereas good cause exists for modifying the annual requirement and instead temporarily allowing judges two years to meet the requirements; ¶5 Whereas this Order does not affect any statutory requirement for judicial education for those judges with juvenile dockets; ¶6 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that effective immediately, the MJCLE requirement for the calendar years 2020 and 2021, is reduced from 12 hours per year to a combined total of 18 hours, and any or all credit may be earned in one or both years.

Carry over hours from 2019 will also apply. The Administrative Office of the Court will provide judges and justices with an interim report for 2020 and a final report for 2021. ¶7 DONE BY ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT IN CONFERENCE this 18th day of May, 2020. /S/CHIEF JUSTICE ALL JUSTICES CONCUR Citationizer© Summary of Documents Citing This Document Cite Name Level None Found.

Citationizer: Table of Authority Cite Name Level None Found. oscn EMAIL: webmaster@oscn.net Oklahoma Judicial Center 2100 N Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 courts Supreme Court of Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Court of Civil Appeals District Courts decisions New Decisions Supreme Court of Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Court of Civil Appeals programs The Sovereignty Symposium Alternative Dispute Resolution Early Settlement Mediation Children's Court Improvement Program (CIP) Judicial Nominating Commission Certified Courtroom Interpreters Certified Shorthand Reporters Accessibility ADA Contact Us Careers Accessibility ADA