

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

**IN RE: PETITION OF THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION TO AMEND TENNESSEE
SUPREME COURT RULE 21**

No. ADM2025-00453

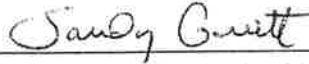
**COMMENT OF THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY TO PETITION TO AMEND TENNESSEE
SUPREME COURT RULE 21**

The Board of Professional Responsibility (the Board), pursuant to Supreme Court Order filed April 28, 2025, respectfully submits the following Comment to proposed amendments to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 21, filed by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education (the Commission).

The Board supports the Commission's proposed amendments to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 21 making an attorney's continuing legal education status consistent with licensure statuses set forth in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 Section 10. Creating uniform license statuses in Tennessee Supreme Court Rules 21 and 9 reduces confusion and provides clarity for attorneys, which in turn promotes efficiency for the Commission and the Board.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

R. Culver Schmid (BPR No. 011128)
Chair, Board of Professional Responsibility of the
Supreme Court of Tennessee
265 Brookview Centre Way Ste 600
Knoxville, TN 37919



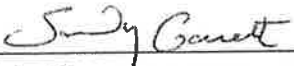
Sandy Garrett (BPR No. 013863)
Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Board of Professional
Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee
10 Cadillac Dr Ste 220
Brentwood, TN 37027

Certificate of Service

I certify that the foregoing has been emailed to Sheree Wright, Esq., Executive
Director, Tennessee Bar Association, at swright@tnbar.org, on this date day of month
2025.

By: 

R. Culver Schmid (BPR No. 011128)
Chairman of the Board

By: 

Sandy Garrett (BPR No. 013863)
Chief Disciplinary Counsel



Knoxville Bar Association

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May 27, 2025

By Email: appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov

James Hivner, Clerk of Appellate Courts
Tennessee Supreme Court
100 Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

RE: ADM 2025-00453

Dear Mr. Hivner:

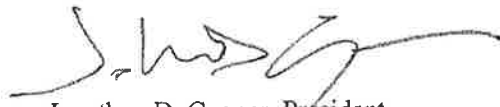
Pursuant to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Order referenced above, the Knoxville Bar Association ("KBA") Professionalism Committee ("Committee") carefully considered the amendments to Rule 21 of the Tennessee Supreme Court proposed in the Order and in the related petition filed by the Tennessee CLE Commission. The Committee presented a report with its recommendation on the proposed amendments at the May 21, 2025 meeting of the KBA Board of Governors (the "KBA Board").

After consideration, the KBA Board submits the following comment from the Committee opposing, in part, the proposed amendments:

The Committee is in favor of the amendments to Rule 21 proposed by the Tennessee Supreme Court. As for the amendments proposed by the CLE Commission's petition, although the Committee supports making inactive licensure status the basis for an automatic CLE exemption, it opposes eliminating the current annual exemptions. Some attorneys may need or want to maintain an active law license, but still have valid reason to be exempt from the annual CLE requirements. Attorneys on active military service are a good example. In the Committee's view, those attorneys should be able to maintain an active license but still be able to request exemption from the CLE reporting requirement, as they can under the current version of Rule 21. It seems inadvisable, then, to entirely align attorney CLE statuses with the various inactive provisions of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 10.3.

As always, the KBA appreciates the invitation to consider and comment on proposed rules changes.

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. Cooper, President

Knoxville Bar Association

cc: Tasha Blakney, KBA Executive Director (via email)
Executive Committee of the Knoxville Bar Association