

Chief Disciplinary Counsel:  
Pamela D. Bucy

Deputy Disciplinary Counsel:  
David A. Scrimm

Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
for the State of Montana

P. O. Box 1099  
Helena, Montana 59624-1099  
(406) 442-1648  
Fax: (406) 442-2685

**FILED**  
Investigator:  
Sheena M. Broadwater  
01/17/2023  
Paralegal:  
Bowen Greenwood  
Shelby Streb  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA  
Executive Assistant:  
Jennifer Cronen

January 17, 2023

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court  
Justice Building  
215 N. Sanders  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

RE: AF 06-0163  
*Comments to Proposed Revisions to MT Rules for CLE*

Dear Honorable Justices,

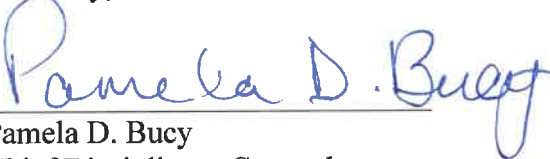
I write in support of the proposed changes to the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Rules. Specifically, to Rule 5, which has historically been referred to as “ethics” requirements.

The revisions reflect changing dynamics within the practice of law in Montana and elsewhere. While traditional training regarding the Montana Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC) and the ethical practice of law continues to be a focus, the proposed changes reflect recognition that many of the ethics violations prosecuted and reported in Montana are the result of significant mental health and substance abuse issues.

Although the proposed changes do not increase the number of ethics CLE requirements placed on Montana lawyers, they expand the scope of what fulfills those necessary credits. These changes recognize that mental and physical health are key components in the ethical practice of law. These changes are an important first step in addressing the root causes of unethical behavior by members of the Montana bar.

I urge your adoption of the proposed changes.

Sincerely,



Pamela D. Bucy  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel