

27 NCAC. 01D .1606 FEES

(a) Sponsor Fee - The sponsor fee, a charge paid directly by the sponsor, shall be paid by all sponsors of approved programs presented in North Carolina and by registered sponsors located in North Carolina for approved programs wherever presented, except that no sponsor fee is required where approved programs are offered without charge to attendees. In any other instance, payment of the fee by the sponsor is optional. The amount of the fee, per approved CLE hour per active member of the North Carolina State Bar in attendance, is \$3.50. This amount shall be allocated as follows: \$1.25 to the Board of Continuing Legal Education to administer the CLE program; \$1.00 to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism; \$1.00 to the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission; and \$.25 to the State Bar to administer the funds distributed to the commissions. The fee is computed as shown in the following formula and example which assumes a 6-hour program attended by 100 North Carolina lawyers seeking CLE credit:

Fee: $\$3.50 \times \text{Total Approved CLE Hours (6)} \times \text{Number of NC Attendees (100)} = \text{Total Sponsor Fee } (\$2,100)$

(b) Attendee Fee - The attendee fee is paid by the North Carolina attorney who requests credit for a program for which no sponsor fee was paid. An attorney will be invoiced for any attendees fees owed following the submission of the attorney's annual report form pursuant to Rule .1522(a) of this subchapter. Payment shall be remitted within 30 (thirty) days of the date of the invoice. The amount of the fee, per approved CLE hour for which the attorney claims credit, is \$3.50. This amount shall be allocated as follows: \$1.25 to the Board of Continuing Legal Education to administer the CLE program; \$1.00 to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism; \$1.00 to the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission; and \$0.25 to the State Bar to administer the funds distributed to the commissions. It is computed as shown in the following formula and example which assumes that the attorney attended a program approved for 3 hours of CLE credit:

Fee: $\$3.50 \times \text{Total Approved CLE hours (3.0)} = \text{Total Attendee Fee } (\$10.50)$

(c) Fee Review - The board will review the level of the fee at least annually and adjust it as necessary to maintain adequate finances for prudent operation of the board in a nonprofit manner. The council shall annually review the assessments for the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission and adjust them as necessary to maintain adequate finances for the operation of the commissions.

(d) Uniform Application and Financial Responsibility - The fee shall be applied uniformly without exceptions or other preferential treatment for a sponsor or attendee. The board shall make reasonable efforts to collect the sponsor fee from the sponsor of a CLE program when appropriate under Rule .1606(a) above. However, whenever a sponsor fee is not paid by the sponsor of a program, regardless of the reason, the lawyer requesting CLE credit for the program shall be financially responsible for the fee.

(e) Failure to Timely Pay Sponsor Fee - A sponsor's failure to pay sponsor fees within ninety (90) days following the completion of a program will result in the denial of that sponsor's subsequent program applications until fees are paid.

History Note: Authority - Order of the North Carolina Supreme Court, October 7, 1987, 318 N.C. 711; Readopted Eff. December 8, 1994; Amendments Approved by the Supreme Court: December 30, 1998; October 1, 2003; February 5, 2009; October 8, 2009; November 5, 2015; April 5, 2018; September 25, 2019; December 14, 2021.