

Invitation to Comment

Title	Judicial Branch Education: Minimum Ethics Education Requirements for Trial Court Executive Officers (amend California Rules of Court, rule 10.473)
Summary	The proposed amendment to rule 10.473(c)(1) would require a minimum of three hours of ethics training as part of the 30 hours of continuing education required for trial court executive officers every three years.
Source	Court Executives Advisory Committee, Michael M. Roddy, Chair Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research, Hon. Ronald B. Robie, Chair
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Continuing education is integral to trial court executive officers to maintain a high level of professionalism and competency in the performance of their job duties. To improve compliance with ethical standards, trial court executive officers need to be educated regularly on modern ethical conduct practices.

At its October 23, 2009 business meeting, the Judicial Council approved recommended changes to the Code of Ethics for the Court Employees of California proposed by the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC). The revised Code of Ethics became effective October 23, 2009.

The revised Code of Ethics updates expectations for ethical conduct by court employees and will strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the justice system. It also provides the guidance and basis for current and future statewide ethics education training programs for court staff, including programs provided by the AOC's Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research and by local courts.

When the Judicial Council approved the amendments to the Code of Ethics, it also directed the Administrative Director of the Courts to start the process to amend rule 10.473(c)(1) of the California Rules of Court to require a minimum of three hours of ethics training as part of the 30 hours of continuing education requirements for trial court executive officers. This recommendation was made to strengthen the current ethics training opportunities that exist for these trial court executive leadership positions.

Presently, trial court executive officers are required under existing rule 10.473(c)(1) to complete 30 hours of continuing education every three years. The proposed amendment to rule

10.473(c)(1) would ensure that a minimum of three hours of ethics training be part of the 30 hours of continuing education required for trial court executive officers every three years. Thus, this proposal will not require additional hours of continuing education, and the hours for ethics education will count toward the number of continuing education hours already required or expected.

The CEAC and the CJER Governing Committee are seeking comment on whether this proposed amendment to rule 10.473(c)(1) properly addresses the needs of minimum ethics education for trial court executive officers.

The text of the proposed rule amendment is attached at page 3.

Rule 10.473 of the California Rules of Court would be amended, effective January 1, 2011, to read:

Rule 10.473. Minimum education requirements for trial court executive officers

(a)–(b) ***

(c) Hours-based requirement

(1) Each executive officer must complete 30 hours of continuing education, including at least three hours of ethics education, every three years beginning on the following date:

(A) For a new executive officer, the first three-year period begins on January 1 of the year following completion of the required education for new executive officers.

(B) For all other executive officers, the first three-year period ~~begins~~ began on January 1, 2007.

(2) ***

(d)–(e) ***

Item SPR10-37 Response Form

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- ☐ Agree with proposed changes
- ☐ Agree with proposed changes **if modified**
- ☐ **Do not agree** with proposed changes

Comments: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

- ☐ Commenting on behalf of an organization

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

To Submit Comments

Comments may be submitted online, written on this form, or prepared in a letter format. If you are *not* commenting directly on this form, please include the information requested above and the proposal number for identification purposes. Please submit your comments online or email, mail, or fax comments. You are welcome to email your comments as an attachment.

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DEADLINE FOR COMMENT: 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 18, 2010

Circulation for comment does not imply endorsement by the Judicial Council or the Rules and Projects Committee. All comments will become part of the public record of the council's action.