



Laboring Results

A Monthly Dispute Resolution E-zine
of Elizabeth A. Moreno, A Professional Corp.

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Now Offering a Dynamic MCLE Program: 'What have you heard? What do you Know? How Cultural Biases and Legal Ethics CRASH'

We have heard many comments about CRASH, that it is a movie that gets under people's skin, because it makes the audience look at something they would rather not have looked at - race, stereotypes and prejudice. Whether it is Los Angeles or the legal profession these issues have not died. These issues have become the basis of an exciting new MCLE class that we offer that addresses elimination of bias and ethics in the legal profession.

Dealing With Biases And Stereotypes

Researchers remind us that we can spot biases in other people easier than we can in ourselves. We see ourselves as highly objective, with little or no biases. For those individuals who have a career built on making carefully reasoned decisions, such as lawyers, this may only reinforce the illusion of objectivity.

Researchers have concluded that we cannot remove our biases because it operates unconsciously. We obtain biases and stereotypes from our surroundings, family, friends, neighbors, music, television, movies and what we read, as well as our own experiences. These experiences begin when we are very young children. The rule of our particular culture is not what is written, but what is learned from those around us, and as children we accept these unwritten rules without question.

So how do we deal with biases?

1. Recognize that we are no less susceptible to such biases than our adversary;
2. Recognize that we have biases; and
3. Do not be intimidated and engage in discussions about biases and stereotypes.

Begin the discussion by contacting us to present the following MCLE Class to your law firm or organization:

'What Have You Heard? What Do You Know? How Cultural Biases And Legal Ethics Crash'

"This is the best MCLE course I took in the last two years." 'Excellent'
-Jan. 17, 2006 MCLE Program attendees

Program Description

*1.5 hours MCLE credit: including 1.00 hour in Elimination of Bias
and .5 hours in Legal Ethics.*

How do we handle cross cultural differences in the legal profession? The United States today is a cross global racial and ethnic cauldron of great variation. While we are greatly enriched culturally, we also live with growing tensions between us, tensions fueled by lack of contact, stereotyping and indifference. How do we go beyond our own bias, ignorance, and fear of difference to allow for effective communication in the courtroom, during a deposition or at mediation? As attorneys, how can we enrich our recognition and empathy with the individuals who are "other" than who we are?

This is a highly interactive program which will explore "what do we know" or "what have we heard" about other cultures; how we consciously and subconsciously use the stereotypes in dealing with person who are different from us; and, how we recognize when these biases give rise to an ethical conflict. The program will begin with clips from the movie CRASH which will help us explore how we consciously and subconsciously simplify each others' identities, especially of others who are racially and ethnically different from us.

For more information about having this MCLE program presented to your law firm or organization, contact Elizabeth A. Moreno at (310) 444-3804 or by e-mail at emoreno@eampc.com.

To ask a question, to request more information on dispute resolution services send an e-mail to emoreno@eampc.com or log on to www.eampc.com. To unsubscribe please send an e-mail to emoreno@eampc.com and type remove in the subject line. If you know anyone who is interested in Laboring Results, do not hesitate to pass it along.

EAMPC
6080 Center Drive
Suite 600
Los Angeles, California 90045
Telephone: 310.444.3804
Facsimile: 310.390.8757
www.eampc.com