



In conjunction with MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, INC.

Basic Public Benefits Advocacy Trainings

MCLE, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), and other Massachusetts legal services programs collaborate to provide annual basic public benefits advocacy training events for the many public and private sector lawyers and community advocates who assist Massachusetts residents to qualify for and receive public benefits. Detailed materials are distributed electronically for all trainings.

TUITION FOR EACH PROGRAM: \$35 Legal Services Attorneys and Non-Lawyer Advocates; \$125 All Others

Assisting Families Experiencing Homelessness

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 No. 2220055WBC; Wednesday, October 20, 2021 No. 2220055RBC; Thursday, October 28, 2021 No. 2220055RB1
9:30 am-3:00 pm, 5.5 credits

This program focuses on strategies to assist families experiencing homelessness in accessing and retaining shelter, short-term housing, and services from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Trainers provide an overview of the Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter and services program, including current restrictions on access to EA shelter. The training also includes advocacy tips regarding the range of issues facing families at-risk or experiencing homelessness as they seek access to EA shelter and the HomeBASE program. The training includes an overview of the system, the application process, denials, terminations, shelter placements, and program requirements. This training is for legal services advocates, lawyers in private practice, social and health services workers, and community activists who want to learn about the nuts-and-bolts of the EA system and the HomeBASE program.

Training materials include the *Emergency Assistance Advocacy Guide: A Guide to Emergency Shelter and Rehousing Services for Homeless Families with Children in Massachusetts*.

CORI: Basics of the NEW Criminal Justice Reform Law

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 No. 2220057WBC; Wednesday, November 10, 2021 No. 2220057RBC; Thursday, November 28, 2021 No. 2220057RB1
9:30 am-2:30 pm, 4 credits

This seminar provides an overview of criminal offender record information (CORI) laws as related to employment, driver licenses, housing, and other collateral consequences. Topics include: how to get CORI reports; sealing and expungement of adult and juvenile cases; chapter 151B anti-discrimination provisions; negligent hiring protections for employers and landlords, and other provisions.

Massachusetts keeps "CORI" on every individual who has a criminal case in a Massachusetts state court. CORI is recorded and kept on file even if the underlying case is ultimately dismissed or the accused is found not guilty. CORI is used in screening processes by employers, landlords, government agencies, and others. Clients with criminal records face barriers to employment, housing, benefits and other opportunities for economic stability. This training is for legal services advocates, lawyers in private practice, social and health services workers, and community activists who want to learn about the new law or get a refresher course on the basics of CORI.

SSI & SSDI Basics

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 No. 2220056WBC; Wednesday, November 17, 2021 No. 2220056RBC; Monday, November 29, 2021 No. 2220056RB1
9:30 am-4:00 pm, 5.5 credits

Social Security disability programs continue to be a major source of cash and health benefits for individuals with disabilities. However, dealing with a large federal agency can be daunting and overwhelming, especially for an unrepresented claimant. The program begins with an overview of the two disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), with emphasis on eligibility requirements and procedures, including online procedures and any remaining COVID-19

related procedures, basic disability eligibility standards and non-disability issues such as income, resources, and non-citizen criteria. An explanation of the recently revised evidence submission and analysis rules begins with the afternoon session followed by overview of the appeals process for disability applications. Concluding the program is a review of certain post-entitlement issues, with special emphasis on continuing disability reviews, work incentives rules, and benefits overpayments. The training is for legal services advocates, lawyers in private practice who are thinking of representing clients before SSA, social and health workers, and community activists.

Overview of the TAFDC Program, Massachusetts' Cash Assistance Program for Families

Thursday, December 9, 2021 No. 2220086WBC; Tuesday, December 28, 2021 No. 2220086RBC; Wednesday, January 5, 2022 No. 2220086RB1
9:30 am-4:00 pm, 5.5 credits

This training is for legal services advocates, lawyers in private practice, social and health services workers, and community activists who want to learn about TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children)—the cash assistance program for families. The training provides an overview of program rules and eligibility, as well as information about recent policy and practice changes. The training will also cover applying for and keeping TAFDC benefits, and protections for specific populations including people with disabilities, people dealing with domestic violence, and people with limited English proficiency. In the afternoon, there will be sessions on child care and non-citizen eligibility/public charge.

Materials will include PowerPoints and other resources. If the rules are no longer in flux because of COVID-19, we will also provide an updated *TAFDC Advocacy Guide: An Advocate's Guide to the Massachusetts Welfare Rules for Families*. The December 2019 edition is available free at <https://www.masslegalservices.org/TAFDCAdvocacyGuide>.

Under Development for 2022

Utilities: Advocacy for Low-Income Households in Massachusetts

SNAP/Food Stamps Advocacy 101

Health Care Access Programs

Tenants' Rights

Income Maximization for the Working Poor

Unemployment Insurance

Immigrants & Public Benefits

State & Federal Veterans' Benefits

Elder Benefits Programs

About MCLE

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Policies and Information

Register early!

For course agendas, hours, fees, and discounts, please refer to the respective seminar pages. The fee includes program instruction and all electronic written materials unless otherwise noted.

To gain early access to online materials, please register in advance of the program.


Upon registration, MCLE will e-mail a confirmation.

Day-of-the-program registrations are welcome, with the exception of limited enrollment programs, or as otherwise noted.

We accept cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover.

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For your convenience, MCLE also offers closed captioning  and verbatim transcripts of all recorded webcast programs, available to you online two weeks after the original program date.

Mandatory CLE credits

Individual attorneys are responsible for checking with their particular state CLE accreditation authority about whether and how much credit will be granted. Although MCLE does not pursue state-based credit, MCLE programs are regularly approved in many jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the individual attorney to submit the information and certifications required under the respective state rule to the appropriate authorities in the jurisdictions in which they seek credit.

Depending on the jurisdiction, lawyers can satisfy their mandatory CLE requirements online with MCLE's webcasts, which feature periodic attendance prompts, electronic written materials, and the opportunity to receive a certificate of attendance.

If your plans change

If you're unable to participate in a program on the date for which you registered, you will receive an email about how to access the program on demand via webcast and/or downloadable mp3 file, including the written materials in electronic form, in full satisfaction of the tuition paid. If you prefer a refund, let us know by the end of the business day prior to the program and we'll refund your tuition after deducting a \$35 processing fee. Note that limited enrollment programs are an exception, cancellation of which require two weeks notice and are subject to a \$55 processing fee.

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Attorney scholarships

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 - 6-10 250
 - 11-25... 500
 - 26-75... 1,000
 - 76-150 ... \$ 2,500
 - 151-250 .. 3,500
 - 251+ 4,500

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REFERENCE # 22-020

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