

OPEN LETTER TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROBATE DIVISION FIDUCIARY PANEL

Dear Participant:

We write to apprise you of the policy established by the Probate Education Committee of the Superior Court with regards to continuing education. In furtherance of administrative order 02-07 to “establish standards for participation in the Division’s fiduciary list,” each participant will be required to complete 6 credit hours of studies per year in order to remain on the fiduciary panel for appointment of cases.

Beginning with the calendar year, January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009, each participant shall submit to the Chambers of A. Franklin Burgess, Jr., Presiding Judge, Probate and Tax Division, a verifiable statement establishing that the participant has taken 6 credit hours of courses during the calendar year. The submission must be delivered by **December 1, 2009**. Your name will be removed from the list for the following year if you fail to complete the 6 credit hours or until such time as you deliver the submission. In the event you deviate from this procedure the presiding judge will consider your request on a case-by-case basis.

Areas of study includes, but are not limited to, Ethics, Real Estate, Landlord Tenant, Federal Estate Taxation, Income Taxation, Accounting, Nursing/Care Provider Law, Insurance Law (especially medical), Trial Skills, Bankruptcy, Pension & Annuity Law, Trusts & Estates. Our focus is as to relevancy in the area of probate practice. Therefore, any course or seminar dealing with aspects of administration of decedent’s estates will be acceptable. When in doubt, submit a written request for prior approval from the presiding judge.

Courses may be pursued through the D.C. Unified Bar, local voluntary bar associations, the National and American Bar Association, the Practicing Law Institute, the American Law Institute, Inns of Court, accredited law schools, and other reputable organizations, including organizations such as AARP which offer

courses in subjects associated with a probate practice, but are not literally legal offerings. Once again, if you are in doubt about the status of the organization, please submit a written request for prior approval from the presiding judge. When so doing, provide appropriate literature establishing the reputation of the organization. You will also receive credit when you participate as faculty in one of these courses. We will require certification by the organization where you served as faculty. However, after the first credit submission for a calendar year in which you teach the course, no credit will be permitted if this is a course that you teach on a regular basis, unless prior approval is given.

Please bear in mind that from time to time the Probate Education Committee will sponsor certain courses. When so stated on the course announcement, that course will be required as part of your 6 credit hours. The committee will announce any such course at least 30 days in advance and it will be presented at least two times during the calendar year.

Judge A. Franklin Burgess, Jr.
Presiding Judge
Probate and Tax Divisions