

1.14 Mandatory professionalism course

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(a) Professionalism Course. Each person licensed to practice law after July 1, 2001, shall, no later than December 31 of the year following the year of election of active status, complete the Hawai'i Professionalism course conducted under the joint sponsorship of the Hawai'i State Bar and the Supreme Court of Hawai'i. This rule applies to every license issued after July 1, 2001, pursuant to any part of Rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i, except Rules 1.9 and 1.13. The required Hawai'i Professionalism course is separate and distinct from other Mandatory Continuing Professional Education programs available through the Hawai'i State Bar or other legal ethics associations and is traditionally offered only bi-annually, in November and June. The Hawai'i State Bar shall notify attorneys facing administrative suspension pursuant to section (c) of this rule, 1 month prior to the final opportunity to complete the professionalism course, of the attorney's impending administrative suspension. Failure to notify an attorney shall not, however, constitute grounds upon which the attorney may contest the imposition of administrative suspension.

(b) Proof of Compliance. Proof of compliance shall be in accordance with procedures established by the Hawai'i State Bar.

(c) Administrative Suspension. Failure to complete the professionalism course within the time period specified above in (a) shall result in automatic suspension of the license to practice law. The Hawai'i State Bar shall give written notice of the suspension, but failure to give notice will not justify or excuse practicing while suspended.

(d) Reinstatement. An attorney suspended under paragraph (c) shall be reinstated upon proof of completion of the course.

(e) Fees. The Hawai'i State Bar may assess and collect reasonable fees for attending the course, for providing notice of suspension, and for processing reinstatement requests.

(Added July 17, 2001, effective nunc pro tunc July 1, 2001; amended September 19, 2008, effective nunc pro tunc January 1, 2008; further amended May 8, 2012, effective July 1, 2012.)