

# Watch Online Video Courses On-Demand

TEXAS ACTIVITY BROCHURE

## **Course Sponsor**

MCLEapproved.com

## **Activity Title: Eliminating Bias in the Legal Profession**

### **Time Schedule/Agenda**

The video course is available online on-demand at <https://MCLEapproved.com/Texas.htm>. The video lasts 63 minutes of instructional time.

### **Overall Objective and Purpose**

Recognizing bias can impair an attorney's ability to provide competent legal services, this course is dedicated to teach attorneys how to eliminate bias in the legal profession.

### **Topics and Description**

Attorneys will learn how, when, where and why bias develops; learn how to identify the subtle signs of bias in others as well as within themselves, and learn how to eliminate bias in the legal profession through social engagement and self reflection.

### **Course Faculty / Presenters**

Tim Riley, Attorney member of the New York and California State Bar  
Deborah Duenckel Allen, Clinical Social Work/Therapist, LCSW

### **Interactivity**

We provide an interactive Blog so attorney participants may interact with the instructor or other participants in the same program, and post their evaluations, comments or ask questions. Attorney participants may also ask questions by phone and email, and during normal business hours will receive direct response; after hours contact will receive a response within 24 hours.

### **Verification and Documentation of Attorney Attendance**

We verify attorney attendance by embedding code within the video program. After watching the video, participants are required to submit the embedded code word by email as proof of attendance. Within 24 hours of our independent verification of the accuracy of the participant's submission, we email the participant a Certificate of Attendance, or electronically report attendance directly to State Bar associations when required. We also maintain and submit records of attendance and evaluations as required; and pay fees when required.

# Credentials of Course Faculty / Presenters

## Course Faculty / Presenter

### Tim Riley, Attorney

- Admitted to Practice Law in California and New York
- Juris Doctor Degree, Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, NY, NY, 1982;
- Bachelor of Professional Studies Degree, with Distinction, Pace University, NY, NY, 1979;
- Appointed to faculty, Adjunct Professor of Law, Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, CA 1985;
- Among first 500 Certified Members, Million Dollar Advocates Forum: "The Top Trial Lawyers in America;"
- Admitted to practice law in all New York State Courts, 1983;
- Admitted to practice law in the Federal Court for the Southern District of New York, 1983;
- Admitted to practice law in all California State Courts, 1984;
- Admitted to practice law in the Federal Court for the Central District of California, 1985;
- Admitted to practice law in the Federal Court for the Northern District of California, 1997;
- Admitted to practice law in the United States Supreme Court, 1999;
- Co-author of Chapter 9, Volume 1, *Forensic Sciences*, editor Cyril Wecht, publisher Matthew Bender
- Produced & Directed the film, *The Risks and Danger of LNG*, An Official Selection of Malibu Film Festival

## Course Faculty / Presenter

### Deborah Duenckel Allen, Clinical Social Work/Therapist, LCSW

- Clinical Staff Member of the Family Therapy Institute of Santa Barbara since 2000
- Adjunct faculty for the Clinical Psychology Masters Program at Antioch University of Santa Barbara since 2000
- 20 years of community and private practice including inpatient hospitals, outpatient treatment programs, residential treatment, and school based therapy.
- Diplomate in Clinical Social Work from the National Association of Social Workers; Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1988; Masters Degree in Social Welfare from UCLA, 1985; Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from UCSB, 1983.
- Vice President California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; Board Member, National Association of Social Workers Santa Barbara Chapter.

# COURSE OUTLINE

## **Objective and Purpose**

Recognizing bias can impair an attorney's ability to provide competent legal services, this course is dedicated to teach attorneys how to eliminate bias in the legal profession.

## **Description**

Attorneys will learn how, when, where and why bias develops; learn how to identify the subtle signs of bias in others as well as within themselves, and learn how to eliminate bias in the legal profession through social engagement and self reflection.

## **Topics Covered**

### **1. How Attorneys can help eliminate bias and prejudice within themselves and in others**

What is bias?

How, when, where, and why does bias develop?

How do differences in legal status impact bias?

How do differences in equal rights impact bias?

How can attorneys get past the denial of their own bias?

How does reducing guilt help attorneys acknowledge their own prejudices?

How does the development of empathy help attorneys in reducing bias?

How can attorneys stand-up to prejudice when colleagues/clients make prejudiced comments?

How does increasing association with people or groups who might trigger our own unintentional prejudicial response help to reduce bias?

How do differences in economic status impact bias?

How do differences in political power impact bias?

### **2. How can Attorneys identify bias and prejudice in the law office and courtroom?**

Why is it so difficult for a potential juror to admit that they have a bias or prejudice?

How can we identify the more subtle signs of prejudice in the law office?

How can we help resolve sexism, homophobia, racism and ageism in the law office?

Is it possible to be free of bias & prejudice?

How can workplace values and norms reduce prejudice?

### **3. Help options:**

How can attorneys reduce bias and prejudice through self-help and psychotherapy?