The League of Women Voters of South Carolina

Presents a Conference on

Ensuring Judicial Independence & Diversity in South Carolina

October 8, 2010
1:00 to 5:45 p.m.

Charleston Museum Auditorium
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC

Reception follows at 6:00 p.m.
Alluette’s Jazz Cafe
137 Calhoun St.

The League of Women Voters continues to work to promote the importance of fair and impartial courts nationwide. During 2010-2011, South Carolina’s state and 11 local Leagues will focus on promoting independence and diversity at all levels of the state judiciary to enhance the legitimacy of our system of justice in the eyes of an increasingly diverse public. A continuation of the status quo will affect the way citizens look at the role courts play in their communities, erode trust in the courts and question the access to equal justice under the law, and courts may not be perceived to be fair and impartial.
ENSURING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & DIVERSITY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Program

12:30 Registration

1:00 Flag Ceremony: Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina, Troops 226, 333, 933
Welcome:
Barbara Zia, President, League of Women Voters of S.C.
Zaida Arguedas, Deputy Director, League of Women Voters of the U.S.
Constance Anastopoulo, Assistant Professor, Charleston School of Law

1:15 Keynote Address:
The Interrelationship between Judicial Independence and Judicial Accountability
The Honorable Rebecca Love Kourlis, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the Legal Profession; Former Justice, Colorado Supreme Court
Introduction: Elisabeth McNamara, Esq., President, League of Women Voters of the U.S.

2:00 Panel: Why Do Judicial Diversity and Independence Matter?
Moderated by Barbara George Barton, Esq., Former President & Ladder Group Chair, S.C. Women Lawyers Assoc.
The Honorable Carolyn C. Matthews, Judge, S.C. Administrative Law Court
The Honorable Gerald Malloy, Member, S.C. Senate; Chair, S.C. Sentencing Reform Commission
John L.S. Simpkins, Assistant Professor, Director of Diversity Initiatives, Charleston School of Law
M. Dawes Cooke, Jr., Chair, S.C. Bar Commission on Judicial Independence & Impartiality

3:00 Break

3:15 Panel: What Does a Fair and Balanced Judiciary Look Like? How Does South Carolina’s System Compare with this Model?
Moderated by Constance Anastopoulo, Esq., Professor, Charleston School of Law
Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, Counsel, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law
The Honorable David Weeks, Member, S.C. House of Representatives; Chair, S.C. Legislative Black Caucus
The Honorable Jenny Horne, Member, S.C. House of Representatives; Former President, S.C. Women Lawyers Assoc.
John Freeman, Professor Emeritus, USC Law School; Member, S.C. Judicial Merit Selection Commission

4:15 How Can We Achieve this Vision of a Fair and Balanced Judiciary?
Moderated by Teresa Cosby, Professor, Political Science, Furman University
The Honorable Chandra Dillard, Member, S.C. House of Representatives
The Honorable David Mack, Member, S.C. House & Judicial Merit Selection Commission
Glen Halva-Neubauer, Dana Professor & Director, Mock Trial & Public Service Internship Program, Furman University
Rick Brundrett, Reporter, The Nerve

5:15 Judicial Selection and a Fair Judiciary: What’s the Connection?
Speaker: Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director, Justice at Stake, Washington, DC
Introduction: Andy I Abrams, Dean, Charleston School of Law

5:45 Adjourn

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Join Us! South Carolina’s state and 11 local Leagues are helping make democracy work in South Carolina.

For information, contact the LWVSC: PO Box 8453, Columbia SC 29202; 803-251-2726; http://www.lwvsc.org.
Keynote Speaker

REBECCA LOVE KOURLIS

Rebecca Love Kourlis served Colorado’s courts for nearly two decades—first as a trial court judge and then as a Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. In January 2006, she established the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver, where she is executive director.

IAALS is a national, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the process and culture of the American civil justice system. The Institute conducts research and develops policy recommendations in the areas of civil justice reform, civil case management, judicial selection and judicial performance evaluation.

Most recently, the Institute announced the formation of the O’Connor Judicial Selection Initiative, in order to provide states with an interest in moving from direct election of judges to a commission-based system, with the tools to achieve this goal. Justice Kourlis holds B.A. and J.D. degrees from Stanford University.

Speakers, Moderators & Panelists

ANDY L. ABRAMS

Andy Abrams, whose focus is in sports and education law, was named dean of the Charleston School of Law in June 2008.

Dean Abrams is a seasoned college administrator. Prior to joining the Charleston School of Law in August 2005, he served in key leadership roles at the College of Charleston. At the college, he was provost, senior vice president for strategic planning and administration, and general counsel. He also was a tenured professor of legal studies.

Prior to joining academia, Dean Abrams was a trial lawyer in Greenville, his hometown. His academic credentials include: an L.L.M. degree from University of Virginia; J.D., cum laude, from University of South Carolina School of Law; B.A., magna cum laude, from Furman University.

CONSTANCE A. ANASTOPOULO

Constance Anastopoulo joined the Charleston School of Law in 2007 as a Visiting Professor of Law, teaching Evidence, Insurance, and Torts. In 2009, she became an assistant professor of law. She also serves as the Faculty Director and Coordinator of the My Sister's House/Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project.

Prof. Anastopoulo's professional experience includes a partnership at the law firm Anastopoulo & Clore, where her litigation experience included Civil, Class Action, Worker's Compensation, Probate Law, Appeals and Domestic Law. She was lead counsel on the seminal case, Gaskins v. Southern Farm Bureau, which was chosen one of the most important decisions by S.C. Lawyer's Weekly for 2003. She also served as Plaintiffs' Class Counsel for the Class Action Lawsuit-In Re: Oxycontin. She is admitted to practice before the United States Federal Court of Claims.

Prof. Anastopoulo serves as Vice President for the League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area. She authored the Amicus Curiae Brief for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina in the recent case Segars-Andrews v. Judicial Merit Selection Commission, et al., which challenged the constitutionality of judicial selection in South Carolina.

BARBARA GEORGE BARTON

Barbara George Barton is a shareholder in the Barton Law Firm, a four-lawyer bankruptcy boutique. She has practiced law for over 33 years and is a certified specialist in the field of bankruptcy law, certified by both the S.C. Supreme Court (16 years) and the American Bankruptcy Institute (12 years).

She is one of three attorneys in South Carolina who are fellows of the American College of Bankruptcy, an international organization of bankruptcy professionals. She has served in every official capacity with the S.C. Bankruptcy Law Association and was president from 1994-1995. In 2000, she received the Billy Robinson Public Service Award in recognition for the contributions she has made in the field of bankruptcy. In 2003, she received the Complent Lawyer Award from the USC School of Law, in recognition of her civic and professional accomplishments. She has been selected as one of the Best Lawyers in America for 2004-present.

Ms. Barton has served on the Board of Governors for the S.C. Bar Association and the Commission on Lawyer Conduct for the S.C. Supreme Court and currently chairs the task force for the Board of Governors dealing with professional satisfaction within the legal profession.

She has held every office for the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association, including the presidency for 2002; served on the board for many years, and founded and chaired a committee of that organization known as the Ladder Group.

Ms. Barton obtained her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1977 and was in-house counsel with the Federal Land Bank from 1978-1982. From 1982-1985, she was an attorney with the McNair Law Firm. In 1986 she joined Robinson, Barton, McCarthy, Calloway & Johnson, P.A.

BERT BRANDENBURG

Bert Brandenburg is the Executive Director of the Justice at Stake campaign, a national, nonpartisan partnership to keep courts fair, impartial and independent. Justice at Stake has helped pass reform legislation, built a coalition of more than 50 organizations, and has helped put the issue of independent courts on the national map. Mr. Brandenburg was the Justice Department’s Director of Public Affairs and chief spokesperson under Attorney General Janet Reno, where he supervised media strategy and press relations for the Justice Department, the FBI, DEA, INS, and 93 U.S. Attorney’s offices. He served in policy and communications positions for the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the National Performance Review, the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign and presidential transition team, Congressman Edward Feighan, and the Progressive Policy Institute. He was Vice President of International Programs for the Santéch Institute, and served as an observer during the 1990 Pakistan national elections.

Mr. Brandenburg has published articles and monographs on judicial elections, information policy, communications, civil rights, war powers, and international law. He serves on the board of directors of the National Institute on Money in State Politics and on the National Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Judicial Campaign Conduct. He is a member of Georgetown Law’s J.D. Adjunct Professor of Law faculty. He holds a J.D. and B.A. from the University of Virginia.
RICK BRUNDETT

Mr. Brundrett has been a professional journalist since 1986 when he began working at his hometown newspaper, The Herald-Palladium, in St. Joseph, Mich., as a police reporter. He spent more than 12 years covering police, courts and local government. In 1998, he joined The State newspaper in Columbia, SC, as a courts reporter and legal issues writer. He remained in that position until September 2009 when he was hired by the S.C. Policy Council, a nonprofit, nonpartisan free-market think tank in Columbia, to help launch The Nerve, (www.thenerve.org) an investigative online news site dedicated to covering South Carolina government. In his current position as an investigative reporter, Brundrett has written about issues relating to all three branches of government. He also is a freelance writer for South Carolina Lawyers Weekly and a consultant to the cable television program In Session, formerly known as Court TV.

M. DAWES COOKE, JR.

M. Dawes Cooke, Jr., has practiced civil litigation for 30 years and is a member of the Bars of South Carolina, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a certified mediator and arbitrator.

He graduated from the University of Virginia with High Distinction in 1976 and the University of South Carolina, cum laude, in 1979, where he was a Member of the Society of Wig and Robe and an editor of the University of South Carolina Law Review. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from The Citadel in 1993.

Mr. Cooke served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Sol Blatt, Jr., U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina in 1979-80. He has practiced with his current firm, Barnwell Whaley, Patterson & Helms, since completing his clerkship. He holds an AV Martindale-Hubbell rating. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America in 4 categories and in South Carolina Super Lawyers as one of the top 25 attorneys in the state. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and currently serves as President of the Charleston Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is past president of the Charleston County Bar Association and past member of the S.C. Bar Board of Governors. He has served on the Judicial Qualifications Committee of S.C. Bar and currently serves as Chair of the S.C. Commission on Judicial Independence and Impartiality.

TERESA COSBY

Ms. Cosby is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Her specialty is constitutional law and racial and ethnic politics. Ms. Cosby was the law clerk of retired United States Magistrate Judge William M. Catoe, Jr., she has served as an Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the S.C. Attorney General’s Office, was the Executive Director of Legal Services of South Carolina, and the former Legal Services of Western Carolina. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Black Family Land Trust, a six-state program. She serves and has served on national, state and local boards of directors, which includes her service as chair of the Civil Policy Group of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and the Upstate Community Mediation Center.

Ms. Cosby received her B.A. degree from the Howard University School of Communications and her J.D. from Howard University School of Law. She is most proud of the fact that she is the mother of Barrett Kristin Cosby.

CHANDRA DILLARD

Since 2009, Chandra Dillard has represented District 23, Greenville County, in the S.C. House of Representatives. She is Director of Community Relations for Furman University. A graduate of Winthrop College, in 1999 she was the first woman elected to serve on Greenville City Council from District 3. She was awarded a Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University in 2008. She is a graduate of the Richard W. Riley Diversity Leadership Academy of Furman University 2004, Leadership Greenville Class XXVI and Leadership SC 2007. Rep. Dillard served as Chair of the City’s Public Services/Administration Committee in 2000-2003 and Chair of the Quality of Life/Environment Committee 2004-2005.

Highlights of her political career include obtaining the City’s first federal appropriation of $900,000 for community development allocated for neighborhood infrastructure improvements; redevelopment of Richland Cemetery to National historic status—the oldest African-American Cemetery in Greenville; and leadership in taking the Nicholtown community through a master planning process which led to a partnership with the Greenville Housing Authority to secure Greenville’s second HOPEVI grant of $20 million dollars for community redevelopment. She also organized the I-385 taskforce to provide landscaping infrastructure enhancements for this city gateway corridor. She chaired the committee to erect Greenville’s first African-American statue in downtown Greenville.

Rep. Dillard serves on many community and state boards, including: Municipal Association of South Carolina, Conference of Black Municipal Elected Officials, S.C. taskforce for Affordable and Workforce Housing, Greenville Housing Fund and The University Center of Greenville Board of Visitors. She received the Chamber of Commerce Athena Award in 2006, Greenville Magazine’s 50 most influential leaders in 2007, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Citizen of the Year Award in 2008 and Women Making History Award Recipient in 2008.

JOHN FREEMAN

Professor Freeman joined the USC law faculty in 1973 after receiving undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Notre Dame and an L.L.M. in 1976 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he studied as a Graduate Fellow in the Center for Study of Financial Institutions. Four times, the students at USC Law School have voted him the Outstanding Faculty Member award. He has received various service awards, and serves as one of the four public members on South Carolina’s Judicial Merit Selection Commission.

Professor Freeman started law practice in 1970 with the Jones Day law firm, and subsequently worked for the Securities and Exchange Commission where he served as special counsel analyzing mutual fund issues. He has taught corporate and securities law, and legal ethics for over 30 years, and has testified as an expert witness or served as trial counsel in various legal malpractice lawsuits, ethics proceedings, and investment-related cases. Professor Freeman has written and lectured extensively on ethics, malpractice and business-related matters and writes a regular column on professionalism topics for the South Carolina Lawyer. Most recently, Professor Freeman has been addressing as a writer and commentator certain problems with the way mutual fund sponsors conduct their business. He retired from the faculty in 2008.
GLEN HALVA-NEUBAUER

Glen Halva-Neubauer is a specialist in state and local government and politics and U.S. domestic policy at Furman University. His research has focused on state-level abortion policy and policymaking as well as engaged learning pedagogy, especially as it relates to public affairs internships. At present, his research centers on analyzing the development of the undue burden standard (the current Supreme Court test for determining the constitutionality of abortion statutes) in the federal courts. Dr. Halva-Neubauer developed the department's local internship program, and his current engaged learning project focuses on the Wilkins Fellowships in the State Legislative Affairs, which annually takes 10-12 students to Columbia, SC, to serve as interns in the state legislature or with groups closely associated with the legislature. In 1995, Professor Halva-Neubauer founded the University's mock trial program, which he continues to coordinate. He has served as the treasurer of the American Mock Trial Association, the sanctioning organization for undergraduate mock trial in the United States, since 1999. A former chair of the Upstate Community Mediation Center, Professor Halva-Neubauer is active in local community affairs.

Dr. Halva-Neubauer teaches courses in American Government, Urban Politics, State Politics, Policy and Administration, and Racial and Ethnic Politics.

Dr. Halva-Neubauer is the 1994 recipient of the Alester G. Furman, Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising, and the winner of the Association of Furman Students Faculty Member of the Year 1990, 1997, 1999, and 2003.

JENNY HORNE

Jenny Anderson Horne is serving her first term in the S.C. House of Representatives representing District 94 consisting of Dorchester & Charleston counties.

Rep. Horne is an attorney practicing law at her firm in Summerville. She is a 1994 magna cum laude graduate of the University of South Carolina Honors College where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She obtained her law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1997 and served as Associate Articles Editor of the South Carolina Law Review. After law school, she clerked for federal trial judge Margaret Beane Seymour.

Rep. Horne is a member of the House Judiciary Committee and she also serves on the election laws subcommittee. She serves as a Majority Whip. Ms. Horne also served on the ad hoc impeachment sub-committee. Jenny is the immediate past president of the S.C. Women Lawyers Association, an advisory board member for Communities in Schools of Dorchester County, a member of the Summerville Oakbrook Breakfast Rotary Club, and a member of Bethany United Methodist Church where she serves on the church council. Ms. Horne is also a member of the Liberty Fellowship Class of 2011.

Jenny and her husband, Marc, have two children, a son Nicholas (9) who is in fourth grade in the GATE program at Summerville Elementary School, and a daughter, Maggie, (5) who is in kindergarden.

DAVID MACK

Since 1997, David James Mack III has represented District 109, Charleston County, in the S.C. House of Representatives.

He is president of Sunrise Communications of Charleston and resides in North Charleston. He received the B.S. degree from Howard University in 1975. He is a businessman and radio talk show host. He is married with 3 children. Rep. Mack is a lay speaker at Old Bethel United Methodist Church and a member of the COBRA board of directors, North Charleston branch of NAACP, board of directors of S.C. Coalition for Black Voter Participation, Co-chair of the Progressive Network, member of Charleston Chapter of Rainbow PUSH, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, board of directors of Opportunities Industrialization Center (1977-81), Carolina Youth Dev. Center (1977-82) and S.C. Substance Abuse Comm. (1980-84). He was editorial writer with The Chronicle, 1986-88.

ELISABETH MACNAMARA

Elisabeth MacNamara is the 18th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). She was elected president in Atlanta during the League’s recent 49th Biennial Convention and celebration of its 90th anniversary.

Ms. MacNamara graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in 1976 and a J.D. in 1979. Since 1974, she has been a proud member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Delta Epsilon, and has lived in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Ms. MacNamara has served the League in leadership roles at all levels—local, state and national. In 1983, she joined the board of directors of the LWV of Georgia as the Courts/Criminal Justice chair, serving until 1991. She also served as vice president for program and as secretary. In 1984, she joined the board of directors of the DeKalb League, serving as Courts/Criminal Justice chair, Education Committee chair, vice president, and secretary between 1984 and 1997. In 1997, she was president of the DeKalb League. Ms. MacNamara rejoined the board of directors of the LWV of Georgia in 1999, and served as president of that board beginning in 2001.

Ms. MacNamara is an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in charge of the office’s juvenile court division in Dekalb County. Prior to this promotion, she had served as assistant district attorney since 1986. Her interest in juvenile justice arose after years of volunteering for the public high school activities of her two sons, including mock trial, academic bowl, track, marching band and cross country. She also served as a staff attorney for the National Center for State Courts and law clerk for the Superior Court of Dekalb County.

GERALD MALLOY

Since 2002, Gerald Malloy has represented District 29 in the S.C. Senate. He was born October 26, 1961, in Chesterfield Co. He resides in Hartsville with his wife and four children. Sen. Malloy received the B.A. in 1984 and the J.D. in 1988 from the University of South Carolina.


CAROLYN CASON MATTHEWS

Administrative Law Court Judge Carolyn Matthews was born November 8, 1950, in Columbia, SC. She graduated Furman University, B.A., 1972; University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., 1978. She was admitted to the S.C. Bar in 1978 and is a member of the Order of Wig and Robe. She received the American Jurisprudence Award, Torts, Fall 1975. She has served as Supreme Court Staff Attorney 1978-81; Law Clerk to Supreme Court Justice George T. Gregory, Jr. 1981-82;

Judge Matthews is married to John Andrew McAllister, Jr.; one daughter, Martha Austin Adams Bruner; one granddaughter, Martha Bennett Bruner.

JOHN L. S. SIMPKINS

Professor Simpkins joined the Charleston School of Law Faculty in Fall 2005, currently serving as Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Diversity Initiatives. He teaches American, international, and comparative public law courses, with a focus on comparative constitutional design. Prof. Simpkins has consulted or conducted research on constitutional design in countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. He frequently offers commentary on state and national politics for Time, NPR, The State newspaper, The Greenville News, and the Charleston Post & Courier. He also has served as election night political analyst for WYFF, Greenville and WCBD, Charleston.

Prior to joining the Charleston School of Law faculty, Prof. Simpkins served as an assistant professor of political science and Associate Director of the Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University. He has also worked in private practice in Washington, D.C. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. His earned degrees include: L.L.M., International and Comparative Law, Duke University; J.D., Duke University; and B.A., Harvard University.

CIARA TORRES-SPELLISCY

Ms. Torres-Spelliscy is Counsel for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, working on campaign finance reform and fair courts. She earned her B.A. magna cum laude from Harvard and J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Ms. Torres-Spelliscy is the co-author, along with Ari Weisbard, of “What Albany Could Learn from New York City: A Model of Meaningful Campaign Finance Reform in Action,” 1 ALBANY GOVT L.R. 194 (2008); “Electoral Competition and Low Contribution Limits” (2009) with co-authors Khalil Williams and Dr. Thomas Stratmann; and “Improving Judicial Diversity” (2008) with co-authors Monique Chase and Emma Greenman, which was republished by Thompson West Reuters in Women and the Law (2009), as well as the author of “Corporate Political Spending & Shareholders’ Rights: Why the U.S. Should Adopt the British Approach” (forthcoming 2010). She is the lead author of the Brennan Center report “Improving Judicial Diversity” (2008).

Ms. Torres-Spelliscy has been published in the New York Law Journal, Roll Call, Business Week, Forbes, The Root.com, Salon.com, CNN.com and the ABA Judges Journal. She has been quoted by the media in The Economist, The National Journal, Sirius Radio and NPR. Before joining the Center, she worked as a corporate associate at the law firm of Arnold & Porter LLP and was a staff member of Senator Richard Durbin.

J. DAVID WEEKS

J. David Weeks represents District 51, Sumter County, in the S.C. House of Representatives and chairs the S.C. Legislative Black Caucus. A native of Sumter, he completed public school in Sumter County, earned the B.A. from Morris College; the M.Ed. from Howard University; the J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law, and the Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Morris College School of Religion.

Rep. Weeks is a member of the board of directors of Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments. He was appointed by the S.C. Speaker of the House to a special committee to develop strategies to prevent base closings in the State of South Carolina. In 2006, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the S.C. Supreme Court to serve on a special task force to develop public records policies. In 2009 he was appointed by the S.C. Speaker of the House to the screening committee for the S.C. Ports Authority.

He is active with local, state and national bar associations and the S.C. Association of Justice. He operates the Weeks Law Office, LLC of Sumter. He formerly served on the executive committee of the Sumter County Bar Association. He was appointed Municipal Court Judge for the town of Timmonsville, SC in December 1996, a position from which he resigned to run for the S.C. House of Representatives in 2000. He was named 2003 “Legislator of the Year” by the Sumter Chapter of the National Federation for the Blind. He serves as chief minority whip for the House Democratic Caucus. He is a member of the House Judiciary Committee. In November 2008 he was elected Chairman of the 39-member S.C Legislative Black Caucus.

Cosponsoring Organizations

American Association of Retired Persons SC
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Justice at Stake Campaign
League of Women Voters Education Fund
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South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
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USC School of Law

This Conference is supported (in part) by a grant from the Transparency and Integrity Fund of the Open Society Institute and a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

This program is approved for 4.25 CLE hours credit.