



Republic of the Philippines
LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD
Quezon City

Memorandum Order No. 23
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE BASIC LAW CURRICULUM

Section 1. *Rationale* - The Legal Education Reform Act of 1993 lays down that it is the policy of the State to uplift the standards of legal education in order to prepare law students for advocacy, counseling, problem solving, and decision making and to develop socially-committed lawyers with integrity and competence. Furthermore, the Supreme Court, pursuant to its power to promulgate rules concerning the admission to the practice requires the completion of clinical legal education courses as a prerequisite to take the bar examinations as provided in Section 5, Rule 138 of the Revised Rules of Court in order to produce practice-ready lawyers.

To facilitate the full implementation of clinical legal education (CLE) as defined under Rule 138-A, the Legal Education Board (LEB) issues these implementing guidelines for law schools to integrate CLE in the basic law curriculum with full respect to their academic freedom.

Section 2. *Modes of integration* - The following are the modes of integrating clinical legal education in the basic law program:

- a) Course-based integration
- b) Course substitution
- c) Standalone course offering

Consistent with Rule 138-A, course-based integration and course substitution shall be allowed only during the transition period for implementation, while a standalone course offering must eventually be complied with by schools.

Section 3. *Course-based integration* - CLE may be integrated by schools into existing courses during the transition period. In this mode, no new course is offered from the existing

approved curriculum. Instead, a modification of an existing course is made in order to integrate CLE in terms of teaching methodology and course design.

As an illustration, courses such as, but not limited to, Natural Resources and Environmental Law or Appropriate Dispute Resolution will be modified to integrate CLE components such as memorandum making, advocacy and other clinical activities in the delivery of the course content.

To be able to implement this option, the approved curriculum of the law school must be notated to reflect the integration, which shall be accomplished in the procedure, as follows:

1. The law school shall submit an application for curriculum adjustment indicating which courses are going to integrate CLE components.
2. After review, the LEB will issue a certificate of compliance indicating the updated approved curriculum with notations.

Section 4. *Course substitution* – CLE may also be integrated during the transition period as a full course without increasing the total unit weight of the approved curriculum. In this mode, a CLE course is substituted for an existing course in the curriculum. The new CLE course shall nonetheless integrate elements from the original course for which it is a substitute.

As an illustration, courses such as, but not limited to, Practice Courts I and II, Summer Apprenticeship or Practicum will be redesigned and offered as CLE courses.

To be able to implement this option, the approved curriculum of the law school must be revised to reflect the substitution, which shall be accomplished in the procedure, as follows:

1. The law school shall submit an application for curriculum adjustment indicating which courses are going to be substituted or considered as CLE courses.
2. The application shall be accompanied with a course description and syllabus.
3. After review, the LEB will issue a certificate of compliance indicating the updated approved curriculum with notations.

Section 5. *Standalone course offering* – CLE may also be integrated as a full standalone course thereby increasing the total unit weight of the approved curriculum. In this mode, none of the existing courses in the curriculum are modified, and the new CLE course shall be treated as an institutional requirement.

As an illustration, new courses such as, but not limited to, CLE 1 or CLE 2 apart from the existing courses will be offered by the school.

To be able to implement this option, the approved curriculum of the law school must be revised to reflect the addition, which shall be accomplished in the procedure, as follows:

1. The law school shall submit an application for curriculum adjustment indicating the new standalone CLE course offering.
2. The application shall be accompanied with a course description and syllabus.

3. After review, the LEB will issue a certificate of compliance indicating the updated approved curriculum with notations.

Section 6. Offering CLE during summer or special terms – If the CLE modifications, done through whatever mode, is going to be permanently offered in a summer or special term, the school shall indicate it in the application for curriculum adjustment.

However, if the courses affected are going to be offered only on a temporary basis in a summer or special term, an application for summer classes shall suffice in addition to the application for curriculum adjustment. The application for summer classes shall be made in accordance with LEB Memorandum Order (LEBMO) No. 13.

Section 7. Purpose of LEB review – Recognizing the academic freedom of schools, the review of applications for curriculum adjustment to integrate CLE is for the sole purpose of properly notating the changes made and allow these modifications to be reflected in the academic records of students. Nonetheless, schools may voluntarily submit their CLE courses to LEB for a more substantial review and comment for purposes of improving their program.

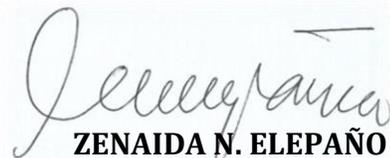
Section 8. CLE Fees – Law schools may impose reasonable new fees or reasonably increase existing fees for its CLE program. In applying for new fees or increase in existing fees for CLE purposes, the law schools must comply with LEBMO No. 8.

Section 9. Separability clause. If any part of this memorandum order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all other provisions shall remain valid and effective.

Section 10. Effectivity – This Memorandum Order shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and deposit of its copy in the National Administrative Register of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Issued under the seal of the Legal Education Board this 21st day of December 2020 in Quezon City.

For the Board:



ZENAIDA N. ELEPAÑO
OIC, Commissioner