

Administrative Judge Conducts CLE Audits

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Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman has conducted the first audit of lawyers under New York's CLE program. In all, 499 lawyers were selected at random to prove their compliance or exemption.

Of the 249 experienced lawyers who participated in the audit, all were either in compliance or exempt except one lawyer, who had died. Of the 250 newer lawyers selected, 27 lawyers did not respond and 20 failed to demonstrate compliance or had insufficient credits. These 47 newer lawyers will be referred to disciplinary committees.

Their names remain confidential. The names will be disclosed if disciplinary action is taken.

All 499 participants were sent a first letter asking for proof of compliance or exemption. A second letter was sent to those who failed to respond. The third letter warned that disciplinary action would follow continuing non-compliance.

All attorneys are required to participate in the CLE program and must retain proof of their completion of qualifying CLE courses for four years. Experienced lawyers (those admitted more than two years) must fulfill 24 hours of credit in every biennial registration period, 4 in ethics and professionalism. Newly admitted lawyers are required to complete 32 hours in their first two years of practice, 16 in each year.