



Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism

Guidelines for Speaking Requests

The Commission on Professionalism receives many requests to present continuing legal education programs (CLEs) and to speak at external events regarding professional responsibility topics.

While we try to accept as many as we can, due to staff constraints and our primary focus on Illinois lawyers, judges, and law students, we do periodically have to decline. When doing so, however, we like to point organizations to [our free online professional responsibility CLEs](#) as well as a [Train the Trainer Toolkit](#), which helps support lawyers in the development of interactive and engaging CLEs.

The guidelines below outline how we evaluate external speaking requests.

Guidelines:

1. Our mission is to promote civility, integrity, and professionalism among the lawyers and judges of Illinois. Therefore, requests from Illinois-based organizations and those that will reach attorneys, judges, law students, or other legal professionals who are registered in, reside in, study in, or practice in Illinois will be given preference.
2. Our areas of focus include professionalism, civility, leadership, legal ethics, legal technology/future law, mental health and substance use, well-being, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Topic requests that fall outside of our professional responsibility areas of focus will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. We endeavor to deliver quality professional responsibility education at no cost to attendees or those making the request. Speaking requests from organizations that intend to charge for registration will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
4. Given the small size of our roster of presenters, we attempt to reach as many people as possible with each presentation. Therefore, priority will be given to requests whose audience is comprised of more than 30 Illinois-based attorneys, judges, law students, or other legal professionals. Consideration will be given to smaller audiences in less densely populated areas of the state and non-profit organizations.
5. As a best practice, our presenters customarily attempt to actively engage their audiences in presentations. We prefer to work with organizations that request Commission speakers far enough in advance to ensure that we can produce a high-quality, interactive presentation or training session.

If you would like to request a speaker from the Commission, please fill out the speaker request form at <https://www.2civility.org/attorney-programs-cle/request-a-cle-speaker-2/>.

Please reach out to mail@2civility.org with questions. Thank you for your interest in the Commission and its mission!

###