

FINLAND – GUIDELINES AFFECTING THE PRACTICE OF LAW

B 9 GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE CONTINUING EDUCATION OF LAWYERS (10 June 2005)

The duties of the Finnish Bar Association include maintaining and enhancing the sense of responsibility and professional skills of its membership. The importance of continuing professional education for lawyers is only highlighted in our constantly evolving society. The Finnish Bar Association has therefore resolved to issue the following guidelines concerning the continuing education of lawyers, which repeal the guidelines concerning the continuing education of lawyers issued on 12 January 1995 and the educational programme of the Finnish Bar Association adopted on 30 January 1998:

1. Lawyers shall take part in continuing professional education for a minimum of eighteen (18) hours each year.
2. The continuing professional education shall relate to and benefit the practice of law. Continuing professional education as referred to in these guidelines may consist of studies in law, professional ethics and other topics relating to the practice of law, language studies relating to the profession, or research, teaching or publishing in the field of law. The preparation of legal opinions and of statements relating to the drafting of law may also be deemed continuing professional education.
Continuing professional education can be organised by the Bar Association or one of its Chapters, or by a third party. Continuing professional education can also be arranged internally within a law firm.
3. A lawyer shall, upon request, demonstrate his or her annual participation in education. In the event of non-compliance with the annual education participation obligation, the relevant lawyer shall be afforded an opportunity to fulfil the obligation within one (1) year.
Compliance with the continuing professional education obligation is monitored by the Bar Association.
4. The continuing education for lawyers is planned, prepared, developed and organised together with associated parties by the Education Committee appointed by the Board of the Bar Association and in accordance with the educational programme prepared by the Committee annually.
Education for lawyers in their respective regions is planned, prepared, developed and organised by the educational liaisons selected from among their number by each Chapter of the Bar Association, who also serve as liaisons between the Board of the Bar Association, the Education Committee, the Chapters and the Bar Association liaison in matters of continuing professional education.
An official in the Bar Association office is designated as an educational liaison tasked with managing and communicating issues relating to continuing professional education. The educational liaison serves as the Secretary to the Education Committee.

5. Information about continuing professional education is made available in Advokaatti, on the Bar Association website (www.asianajaliitto.fi/advonet/koulutus), by email and by other means. The educational liaisons of the Chapters are responsible for communicating their respective Chapter's educational offering by the aforementioned means.