

# **POLICY FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF JOURNAL ARTICLES FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) UNDER THE NBA MCPD RULES**

## **1. Preamble**

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), through its Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NBA-ICLE), is dedicated to promoting ongoing professional development among its members. In line with the NBA MCPD Rules 2025, which mandate legal practitioners to acquire a minimum of five (5) CPD credit hours annually for practice license renewal, this policy outlines the framework for accrediting journal articles authored by members for CPD credit. This aims to encourage scholarly contributions to legal discourse and recognize the intellectual effort involved in producing high-quality legal publications.

## **2. Policy Statement**

The NBA-ICLE recognizes that research, preparation, and publication of substantive journal articles significantly contribute to a lawyer's professional development and the advancement of legal knowledge. Therefore, journal articles meeting specified criteria will be eligible for CPD credit hours under the NBA MCPD Rules.

## **3. Objectives**

- a) To encourage legal practitioners to engage in scholarly research and writing.
- b) To acknowledge and reward the intellectual effort expended in producing journal articles.
- c) To provide an additional pathway for lawyers to meet their annual CPD requirements.
- d) To promote the dissemination of legal knowledge and best practices within the Nigerian legal profession.
- e) To uphold the quality and relevance of legal publications, attracting CPD credit.

## **4. Eligibility Criteria for Articles: For a journal article to be considered for CPD credit, it must meet the following criteria:**

- a) **Originality:** The article must be an original work of the submitting lawyer(s) and not previously published.
- b) **Substantive Legal Content:** The article must be of significant intellectual or practical content, related to the practice of law, and extend the knowledge and skills relevant to legal practice, ethics, or career development.
- c) **Peer Review/Editorial Oversight:** The article must have been published in a reputable law journal, law report, accredited legal blog, and/or professional publication.
- d) **Length:** A minimum word count of 2,000 words is generally required to ensure sufficient depth of analysis. Articles exceeding 5,000 words may be considered for additional credit, subject to the discretion of the NBA-ICLE.
- e) **Relevance:** The content must be relevant to the Nigerian legal system, or international law with implications for Nigeria, or areas of law generally applicable to legal practice.
- f) **Proper Citation:** The article must demonstrate proper academic or legal citation of sources.
- g) **Authorship:** The submitting lawyer must be the primary author or a significant co-author of the article. Proof of authorship will be required.

## 5. Award of CPD Credit Hours

- a) General Principle: CPD credit hours for articles will be awarded based on the depth, complexity, and length of the article, reflecting the intellectual effort involved in its creation
- b) Articles between 2,000 and 3,500 words: 2 CPD Credit Hours.
- c) Articles between 3,501 and 5,000 words: 3 CPD Credit Hours.
- d) Articles above 5,000 words: 4 CPD Credit Hours.
- e) Maximum Credit: A lawyer can claim a maximum of 4 CPD credit hours annually from the publication of Journal Articles, irrespective of the number of articles published. This limit is in place to ensure the diversification of CPD activities.
- f) Effective Date: Credit will be awarded for articles published by 31<sup>st</sup> March of the preceding year (1 April to 31 March) for which the application is made.

## 6. Lawyers seeking to have their articles counted for CPD credit must follow these steps:

- a) Online Application: All applications must be submitted through the designated portal on the NBA-ICLE website ([www.nbaicle.org](http://www.nbaicle.org)). Lawyers must first register and create a profile on the portal if they have not already done so, or through a designated email address on the application form.
- b) Required Documents: The application must include:
  - a) A completed online application form.
  - b) A soft copy (PDF) of the published article.
  - c) Proof of publication (e.g., a link to the online publication, a scanned copy of the journal's table of contents showing the article, or a letter from the editor/publisher confirming publication).
  - d) A brief statement (maximum 500 words) summarizing the article's contribution to legal knowledge or practice.
  - e) Any other documentation as may be required by the NBA-ICLE.
  - f) Application Fee: A non-refundable processing fee of Five Thousand Naira (N5000:00) Naira only as determined by the NBA-ICLE, shall be paid at the time of application to the NBA-ICLE Account, 1942450072, Current Account, Access Bank.
  - g) Submission Deadline: Applications for articles published in a given CPD year must be submitted between 1 April to 31 March.

## 7) Consequences of Revocation

- a) Where any CPD credit previously awarded is revoked, such credit shall no longer count toward the mandatory CPD requirement for the applicable practice year. The Institute shall notify the affected member and update its records accordingly. The member shall be required to make up the deficit within the CPD year to remain eligible for the issuance or renewal of a practising licence.
- b) In cases of fraudulent or unethical conduct leading to revocation, the Institute shall report the matter to the appropriate NBA authorities for further action in line with the Rules of Professional Conduct and the LPDC framework.

## 8) Monitoring and Compliance

The NBA-ICLE reserves the right to:

- Verify the authenticity of any submitted article and its publication.
- Request additional information or clarification from the applicant or publisher.
- Revoke awarded CPD credits if any misrepresentation or fraud is discovered.

## 9) Amendments

This policy may be reviewed and amended by the NBA-ICLE Governing Board from time to time as deemed necessary to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the overarching goals of the NBA MCPD Rules.

**Nigerian Bar Association Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NBA-ICLE)**

Date of Effect: 10 June 2025