

Faculty Professional Development Grant Final Report

Grant to Attend Arkansas Bar Association Annual Meeting

*June 13-16, 2017
Hot Springs, Arkansas*

**Submitted
by**

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PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The professional development grant received was to attend the Arkansas Bar Association 2017 Annual Meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas, June 13-16. The purpose of my participation in this professional development event was to earn Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits to maintain my license to practice law in Arkansas, update my knowledge in numerous areas of the law, learn new teaching methods appropriate to this subject, and network with other professionals in my academic field.

Brief Review of the Professional Enhancement Opportunity

I attended the Arkansas Bar Association 2017 Annual Meeting. The Arkansas Bar Association is the primary professional organization for attorneys in the state of Arkansas. Founded in 1898, the Arkansas Bar Association is a private, nonprofit, voluntary association of over 5,000 attorneys. The association's mission is to advance the administration of justice; promote high standards of learning, integrity, and competence among attorneys; and conduct a program of continuing legal education among attorneys. Accordingly, the annual meeting offers Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for licensed attorneys.

Summary of Findings, Outcomes, or Experiences

The ATU College of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which requires business faculty members to remain academically qualified in their professional disciplines. At the meeting, I earned 12 credits of CLE, which enables me to maintain my license to practice law in Arkansas. This credential is an important qualification for professors in the legal field.

By attending the presentations at this conference, I was able to update my knowledge on several important topics, such as employment law, labor law, ethics, contract law, constitutional law, and consumer protection. I also gained new ideas for teaching business law and engaging students in the classroom and networked with other professionals in my field. These contacts are a valuable source of information, and they often come to ATU as guest speakers in my classes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The interaction with participants and presenters was educational and motivational for me both as an instructor and as a member of the legal profession. I developed new expertise in business law and ethics and gained new ideas and insights for teaching this material. By earning Continuing Legal Education credits, I also fulfilled requirements needed to maintain my academic and professional qualifications necessary for accreditation with AACSB. The Arkansas Bar Association Annual Meeting is an excellent professional development opportunity that I would recommend to other professors in my field.