

## The SAMI\* (Substance Abuse/Mental Impairment) Requirement

### Rule 4A:

"Of the five (5) credit hours in ethics, one hour must be satisfied by a program on the relationship between a lawyer's professional responsibilities and substance abuse, chemical dependency, or debilitating mental conditions."

The SAMI requirement was added to the Montana Supreme Court Rules for CLE in 2006 in response to the increasing impact of substance abuse, chemical dependency, clinical depression and other debilitating mental conditions on the legal profession in Montana.

The rule does not add to the total credit requirement, but stipulates that one of the 5 ethics credits required every three years address this issue specifically.

Most Montana attorneys will be required to obtain 1 SAMI credit by March 31, 2010. The SAMI requirement is part of the 3-year ethics cycle. If you were admitted to the Bar after 2001, you might have a different reporting cycle. Check the upper-right portion of your CLE affidavit to determine the end of your individual 3-year ethics reporting cycle.

### To obtain the SAMI credit ...

\* Currently, 5 ethics credits, including 1 SAMI credit may be obtained by watching the DVD recording of the State Bar's 2007 Ethics program entitled **"All Ethics, Nothing But Ethics"** available for rental (\$75 + \$25 refundable deposit) on the State Bar website at [www.montanabar.org](http://www.montanabar.org) or by contacting Kathie Lynch at the State Bar office 406-447-2209.

\* Also available for 5 ethics credits including 1 SAMI credit is a series of 6 DVD recordings of the State Bar's 2009 program entitled **"Malpractice Prevention"**. The series rents for \$150 plus a \$50 refundable deposit.

\* If you are interested in only the SAMI portion of the **"Malpractice Prevention"** program, a 1-hour DVD of that portion only is available for rent for \$35 plus a \$25 refundable deposit.

\* In addition, we honor the approval of all other CLE jurisdictions so any substance abuse program that is available through another state bar association will be accepted in Montana.

**NOTE:** If you have attended a presentation by Mike Larson of the State Bar's Lawyers Assistance Program anytime in the past 2-3 years, you have already met your SAMI requirement for the current 3-year period. State Bar Counsel Betsy Brandborg has also made several presentations that meet the SAMI requirement in recent years.

Questions? Call Kathy Powers at 406-447-2207