

A woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow patterned jacket, is shown from the chest up. She is holding a large, colorful award trophy with both hands. The trophy has a white base and a colorful, multi-colored top. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows.

RECERTIFY LIKE AN EXTREME COUPONER

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I love the show Extreme Couponing. It features individuals who are so obsessed with combining coupons, store reward programs, and sales that they are able to purchase hundreds of dollars worth of groceries by spending only a few dollars, and occasionally their shopping trips are completely free. Those who have mastered the art of couponing have collected vast stockpiles of food, beverages, paper products, laundry supplies, and toiletries that will supply their family for long periods of time, freeing up financial resources allowing them to send their children to college or become debt free. Extreme couponers take the time to plan carefully before each shopping trip. Those who are the best at the art of couponing claim that anyone who plans carefully will discover that the process is quite simple and worthwhile.

If you plan carefully, you can recertify each of your NALS certifications for no more than the cost of the recertification fee—and the process is quite simple and worthwhile. There is no need to spend several hundred dollars obtaining the mandatory number of continuing legal education hours or points necessary over the five years you are granted to recertify. We know that ALPs must accumulate 50 hours/points to recertify and PLSs and PPs must obtain 75 hours/points, with five of a PP's hours/points being on ethics. What we may not realize is there are countless opportunities for free or low-cost continuing legal education that we may overlook. In addition to credit for attending college, seminars, conferences, and workshops that can be expensive over time, NALS grants CLE credit for many activities we may forget to document.

Seminars/Workshops/Study Groups Taught. If you have the education, dedication, experience, and knowledge

necessary to obtain certification, you have the education, experience, and knowledge necessary to teach a seminar, workshop, or study group session. Your chapter or state association is hungry for CLE speakers on topics related to the certification exams or any area of law. One teaching hour equals four recertification points which includes credit for preparation and presentation. Volunteer to teach a study group for those who are studying for certification. Teach a chapter at your Lunch and Learn. Lead an education event at work or speak at a high school career day. The possibilities are endless. Be sure to have your chapter Legal Education Chair or Certification Chair complete a CLE form or affidavit that includes the date, topic, and number of hours for each seminar, workshop, or study group session you teach. This type of CLE credit can quickly add up over a five year period and the commitment is relatively minor. By teaching just two hours a year over a five year recertification period, you can earn 40 recertification points free of charge.

Authoring Articles and Publications. Each article you author or publication you create for your chapter or state newsletter, for *the NALS docket* or @Law, or for your company newsletter or website regarding exam-related topics, law-related education, or substantive law is awarded five points. Simply authoring one article a year for 5 years will earn you 25 recertification points. Your chapter or state publication will welcome your article. Many of you already do this and overlook documenting your efforts.



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