



News Release

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For immediate release:
Nov. 20, 2013

Supreme Court Appoints Special Committee on Attorney Ethics and Admissions

The New Jersey Supreme Court has created a Special Committee on Attorney Ethics and Admissions to review the recent American Bar Association (ABA) amendments to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and standards for admission to practice law for attorneys from other jurisdictions.

"We are very fortunate that a panel of distinguished legal experts will examine the ABA's new model rules," said Chief Justice Stuart Rabner. "The ABA's revisions reflect changes in technology, the globalization of the legal profession, and other related issues. We look forward to the committee's recommendations about how to change the New Jersey Rules to respond to those developments."

The committee, chaired by retired Chief Justice James R. Zazzali, has been formed in response to the ABA's recent amendments, which reflect changes in technology and global legal practice. Topics addressed by the ABA's Commission on Ethics 20/20 include confidentiality in a digital age; ethics issues arising from new forms of advertising; outsourcing of legal services; issues relating to lawyer mobility; choice of law problems related to conflicts of interest; issues relating to practice of out-of-state lawyers; and practice of foreign lawyers in the United States.

"The practice of law has undergone a sea change in recent years, reflecting changes in technology and the resulting globalization of the profession," said Zazzali. "Our committee will need to think carefully about how those changes affect the practice of law and use the ABA model as a starting point to identify opportunities to improve and strengthen the legal profession in New Jersey."

The ABA commission's work included examining the effect of technology in modern law practice, such as how to store and safeguard electronic client information; whether lawyers should be obligated to modernize their practices; how to handle inadvertently discovered electronic communications; whether advertising rules should be explicitly revised to address websites, legal blogs, social media and online advertising; and whether increased lawyer mobility should spur accommodation in the form of admission by motion or practice pending admission.

The full committee roster is attached.

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SUPREME COURT SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON ATTORNEY ETHICS AND ADMISSIONS

CHAIR

Chief Justice James R. **Zazzali** (retired) (of counsel at Gibbons, P.C. (Newark))

VICE-CHAIR

Professor Paula C. **Franzese** (Peter W. Rodino Professor of Law, Seton Hall Law School)

MEMBERS

Richard J. **Badolato**, Esq. (Connell Foley, LLP in Roseland) -- Chair, Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics; former NJSBA President

Hon. Walter R. **Barisonek** (retired) (Chair, Professional Responsibility Rules Committee)

Edna **Baugh**, Esq. (Stephens & Baugh, LLC (Maplewood)) -- Vice-Chair, Disciplinary Review Board

Joseph A. **Bottitta**, Esq. (of counsel at Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC in Newark) -- former NJSBA President

Judge Philip S. **Carchman** (retired Appellate Division Presiding Judge; former Acting Administrative Director) -- now on recall in the Appellate Division and in Mercer

Guadalupe **Casillas**, Esq., Deputy Public Defender (Essex County Office of the Law Guardian) -- designee of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey

Acting Dean Ronald K. **Chen** (Rutgers-Newark Law School Acting Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law) -- ACPE Vice-Chair; Member of NJ Commission on Professionalism in the Law

Judge Patrick **DeAlmeida** (Tax Court Presiding Judge)

Frederick J. **Dennehy**, Esq. (Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer, PA (Woodbridge)) -- former UPLC Vice-Chair; former chair, NJSBA Committee on Professional Rules and Responsibility; Professional Lawyer of the Year (Commission on Professionalism), 2006

David H. **Dugan**, Esq. (solo practitioner in Medford, focusing on legal ethics) -- 2012 recipient of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation Medal of Honor; author of the ICLE Manual on Legal Ethics

Assignment Judge Travis J. **Francis** (Middlesex Vicinage)

Bonnie C. **Frost**, Esq. (Einhorn Harris Ascher Barbarito & Frost, PC (Denville)) -- Chair, Disciplinary Review Board)

Michael K. **Furey**, Esq. (Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti, LLP (Morristown)) -- Chair, Disciplinary Oversight Committee

Judge Joan Robinson **Gross** (Municipal Court Presiding Judge, Union Vicinage) -- Chair, Conference of Municipal Court Presiding Judges; former Chair, Municipal Court Practice Committee

Judge Ellen L. **Koblitz** (Appellate Division)

Justice Virginia A. **Long** (retired) (of counsel at Fox Rothschild, LLP (Lawrenceville))

Robert E. **Lytle**, Esq. (Szaferman Lakind) -- Statewide Chair, Committee on Character

Judge Edward J. **McBride**, Jr. (Superior Court, Camden)

Melville (De) **Miller**, Jr., Esq. (President, Legal Services of New Jersey)

Edward H. **O'Hare**, Esq. (Zazzali Fagella Nowak Kleinbaum & Friedman)

John P. **Paone**, Jr., Esq. (Paone Zaleski Brown & Murray (Woodbridge/Red Bank)) -- Chair, Board on Attorney Certification

Louis **Pashman**, Esq. (Pashman Stein PC in Hackensack) -- former Disciplinary Review Board Chair

Steven M. **Richman**, Esq. (Duane Morris LLP in Cherry Hill) – member, Professional Responsibility Rules Committee; designee of the New Jersey State Bar Association
Meredith L. **Schalick**, Esq., Clinical Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic, Rutgers School of Law-Camden
William E. **Staehele**, Esq. (Morristown) – Chair, Board on Continuing Legal Education
Hon. Edwin H. **Stern** (Of Counsel, Gibbons PC (Newark)) -- retired Appellate Division Presiding Judge for Administration
Elizabeth A. **Weiler**, Esq. (Weiler & Brandman (Cranford)) – Chair, Board of Bar Examiners

STAFF

Lead/Coordinating Staff: Carol **Johnston**, Esq. – Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics, the Committee on Attorney Advertising, and the Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Staff (Ethics): Hillary K. **Horton**, Esq. – Deputy Ethics Counsel, Office of Attorney Ethics

Staff (Admissions): Susanne **Johnson** – Assistant Secretary, Board of Bar Examiners; Manager, Bar Admissions Unit (Supreme Court Clerk's Office)