

# In The Indiana Supreme Court

## CASE NUMBER

### **ORDER AMENDING RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Under the authority vested in this Court to provide by rule for the procedure employed in all courts of this state and in furtherance of this Court's constitutional authority relating to matters of professional discipline, Professional Conduct Rule 7.5 of the *Rules of Professional Conduct* is amended to read as follows (deletions shown by ~~striking~~ and new text shown by underlining):

...

#### **Rule 7.5. Professional Notices, Letterheads, Offices, and Law Lists**

(a) A lawyer or law firm shall not use or participate in the use of professional cards, professional announcement cards, office signs, letterheads, telephone directory listings, law lists, legal directory listings, or a similar professional notice or device if it includes a statement or claim that is false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, self-laudatory or unfair within the meaning of or that violates the regulations contained in Rule 7.4~~2~~.

(b) A lawyer shall not practice under a name that is misleading as to the identity, responsibility, or status of those practicing thereunder, or is otherwise false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, self-laudatory or unfair within the meaning of Rule 7.4~~2~~, or is contrary to law. In that it is inherently misleading, a lawyer in private practice shall not practice under a trade name. However, the name of a professional corporation or professional association may contain "P.C." or "P.A." or similar symbols indicating the nature of the organization, and if otherwise lawful a firm may use as, or continue to include in, its name, the name or names of one or more deceased or retired members of the firm or of a predecessor firm in a continuing line of succession. A lawyer who assumes a judicial, legislative, or public executive or administrative post or office shall not permit his name to remain in the name of a law firm or to be used in professional notices of or public communications by the firm during any significant period in which he is not actively and regularly practicing law as a member of the firm and during such

period other members of the firm shall not use his name in the firm name or in professional notices of or public communications by the firm.

...

This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2006.

The Clerk of this Court is directed to forward a copy of this Order to the clerk of each circuit court in the state of Indiana; Attorney General of Indiana; Legislative Services Agency and its Office of Code Revision; Administrator, Indiana Supreme Court; Administrator, Indiana Court of Appeals; Administrator, Indiana Tax Court; Public Defender of Indiana; Prosecuting Attorney's Council; Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission; Indiana Supreme Court Commission for Continuing Legal Education; Indiana Board of Law Examiners; Indiana Judicial Center; Division of State Court Administration; Indiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program; the libraries of all law schools in this state; the Michie Company; and the West Group.

The West Group is directed to publish this Order in the advance sheets of this Court.

The Clerks of the Circuit Courts are directed to bring this Order to the attention of all judges within their respective counties and to post this Order for examination by the Bar and general public.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2005.

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Brent E. Dickson  
Acting Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.