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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPREME COURT RULES

The Rules Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court will hear comments at a public hearing Monday on three proposed new rules. One deals with discovery in civil cases, a second would impose a statute of limitations for less serious violations in attorney discipline cases, and a third would establish a commission to investigate instances of non-lawyers engaged in the practice of law.

The hearing will be held January 28, beginning at 10 a.m. at 160 N. LaSalle St., Room N-502 in Chicago. The Rules Committee is chaired by Chicago lawyer Patricia C. Bobb.

The civil discovery matters involve proposed amendments to Rule 213 and are aimed at preventing unfair surprises at trial without creating an undue burden on the parties before trial. [The proposed amendments](#) has been drafted by the Rules Committee and [another version](#) has been drafted by the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Discovery Procedures.

Both drafts will be the subject of comment at the hearing.

[A proposal offered by the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission \(ARDC\)](#) and recommended by the Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility would establish generally a five-year limitation in which charges of misconduct against an attorney must be filed with the Commission. A five-year limitation would not apply to charges involving a lawyer's conversion of client funds, filing a false bar application, criminal conduct, fraudulent conduct, witness tampering and attempting to influence a judge by giving a thing of value. A five-year limitation also would not apply if the lawyer concealed facts underlying the charge from the aggrieved party or from the disciplinary commission.

[A third proposal is offered by the Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors.](#) It would establish a seven-person commission, composed of four attorneys and three non-lawyers appointed by the Supreme Court, to investigate and prosecute persons who engage in the practice of law without a law license. According to comments prepared by the ISBA, the rule is intended to protect the public so that only lawyers who are registered as attorneys in Illinois and subject to discipline within the ARDC's administrative proceedings perform legal services for the public. Non-attorneys are not subject to discipline by the ARDC.

MORE

Rules Committee Public Hearing

None of the proposals would take effect unless they are specifically approved by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Notice of the hearing, accompanied by copies of the proposed rules changes, have been distributed to members of the bench and bar throughout the state, and public commentary also was invited. A copy of the proposed rules also will be available at the Supreme Court's web site, <http://www.state.il.us/court>, under the section listing press releases.

The public hearing on proposals regarding rules governing the administration of the state's judicial system is held annually on the fourth Monday in January.