

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2007

**HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO ETHICAL RULES FOR
ILLINOIS LAWYERS**

The Rules Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court will hear comments at a public hearing Friday, September 14, 2007 in Springfield on an extensive proposal to make numerous changes to the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, which govern attorney behavior.

The hearing will begin at 11 a.m. at the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield.

The Supreme Court Rules Committee invites public comments on the proposals; written comments should be submitted by **Friday, August 31, 2007**. Anyone wishing to testify at the public hearing should advise the Rules Committee in writing no later than **Friday, September 7, 2007**.

The current Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct became effective in August 1990 and are based in large part on the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, first published in 1983. The basis of the new, proposed rules are revised Model Rules approved by the ABA House of Delegates at its meetings in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

The proposals are being forwarded to the Rules Committee after consideration by a joint committee of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association, as well as review by the Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility.

None of the proposed rules will take effect unless specifically approved by the Supreme Court.

Justice Thomas L. Kilbride is the Supreme Court liaison to the Rules Committee and Justice Anne M. Burke is the Supreme Court liaison to the Professional Responsibility Committee.

The Committee on Professional Responsibility recommended most of the proposed rule changes contained in the ISBA/CBA Ethics 2000 Report.

MORE

Rules Committee Public Hearing Add One

The ISBA/CBA version of the rules, as recommended they be modified by the Committee on Professional Responsibility, are posted on the Illinois Supreme Court website at www.state.il.us/court. The document is lengthy, approximately 160 pages.

To view from the website, select the tab titled "Courts" on the home page and click on "Supreme." Next, click on the subsection titled "Supreme Court Committee Public Hearings" and then click on the document you wish to review under "September 14, 2007."

An ISBA/CBA summary of how the joint bar proposal differs from the current Illinois rules may be obtained from Pages 11 to 42 of the ISBA/CBA Ethics 2000 Report located in the same area on the Court's website. That entire report is 194 pages. Also in that area on the web site is a transmittal letter from Richard A. Redmond, a Chicago attorney who is chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility, to John Nicoara, chair of the Supreme Court Rules Committee.

The current Illinois Rules of Professional Responsibility are in a different area on the Supreme Court's website. To view these, go to www.state.il.us/court, select "Documents", then "Rules," then "Supreme Court Rules," and scroll down to "Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct."

The proposal would affect all the current rules of Professional Conduct, including Rule 3.6 dealing with trial publicity; Rule 3.8 dealing with the special responsibilities of prosecutors; and Rule 1.6 dealing with the confidentiality of client communications. The proposal also adds several new rules.

The Professional Responsibility Committee and the joint ISBA/CBA committee recommend the Supreme Court adopt "Comments" to the proposed rules. Most of the current rules do not have a "Comments" section.

Comments and requests to testify should be submitted by the aforementioned deadline dates to:

Supreme Court Rules Committee
c/o Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
3101 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, Illinois 62704-6488

Individuals who wish to testify at the public hearing via video conference may request to do so from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts at 222 N. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor, in Chicago. More information about the video conference may be obtained by calling 312-793-3250.

Co-chairs of the ISBA/CBA committee are Thomas P. Luning, a Chicago attorney, and Robert A. Creamer, an Evanston attorney.