

Digest of Ethics Advisory Panel
Opinion #91-14, Request #124
Issued July 18, 1991

An attorney seeks Panel opinion as to whether it is permissible for a Rhode Island law firm organized as a professional corporation to form a partnership with an out-of-state law firm.

It is permissible for a Rhode Island Law firm which is organized as a professional corporation to form a partnership with an out-of-state law firm. The Panel notes that while such an association is permitted, Rhode Island Rule of Professional Conduct 7.5 provides in relevant part:

(b) A law firm with offices in more than one jurisdiction may use the same name in each jurisdiction, but identification of the lawyers in an office of the firm shall indicate the jurisdictional limitations on those not licensed to practice in the jurisdiction where the office is located.

Ethics Advisory Panel advice is protective in nature. There is no requirement that an attorney abide by a Panel opinion, but if he or she does, he or she is fully protected from any charge of impropriety.