

Digest of Ethics Advisory Panel
Opinion #91-18, Request #149
Issued may 23, 1991

An attorney seeks Panel advice concerning the attorney's ethical obligations as they relate to the attorney's present practice of law in light of past government employment. The attorney was employed in the Executive Department of the state government.

The Panel takes the position that Rhode Island Rule of Professional Conduct 1.11 and Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5, 1956, as amended, prohibit the attorney from representing a private client before the Executive Department or from appearing before the Executive Department for one year from the date the attorney was separated from employment in the Executive Department.

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.