

Digest of Ethics Advisory Panel
Opinion #91-64, Request #181
Issued September 19, 1991

An attorney seeks Panel guidance in announcing the employment and adding the name to the firm's letterhead of an individual who has passed the bar of another state but is ineligible to sit for the Rhode Island bar since he graduated from a nonaccredited law school.

The Panel advises that it would be improper to reference this individual as a member of the bar of another state since that would imply that he is eligible to become a lawyer in Rhode Island, which is not the case and would be a violation of Rule 7.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, as misleading.

The Panel directs attention to Rule 7.5. If the attorney does choose to include the individual's name in the firm's letterhead, pursuant to Provisional Order No. 18 - Use of Legal Assistants Guideline 7, the words "legal assistant" must be placed after his name.