

(LES 2851J)

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL
Opinion #92-36, Request #256
Issued July 23, 1992

An attorney seeks Panel advice regarding the following circumstances. The attorney is a volunteer City Solicitor of City A in matters not involving criminal prosecutions. The attorney asks whether it would be a conflict of interest if the attorney represented a resident of City A in an action against the State of Rhode Island under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. The underlying incident for the action against the state was a criminal prosecution initiated by City A's police department.

The Panel believes that pursuant to Rule 1.7 and the facts furnished as presented, there appears to be no conflict of interest for the attorney in the representation of City A's residents. City A is not a party in the criminal injuries compensation matter. The State of Rhode Island and the private citizen are the parties, therefore, a conflict of interest is not present.