

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL  
Opinion 92-53, Request #276  
Issued July 23, 1992

An attorney seeks Panel advice regarding whether or not the attorney may distribute a letter to individuals who are not clients or family, and have never had a prior professional relationship with the attorney.

The letter does not solicit employment of the attorney. The purpose of the letter is to advise business clients and others of pending legislation and to encourage them to contact state legislators.

As a threshold matter, the Panel declines to embark on the task of editing documents, and therefore cannot give general approval to the proposed letter.

The Panel believes that the proposed letter does not violate the Rules on Advertisement. (See Rules 7.1-7.5). Rule 7.1 states that "a lawyer may not make a false or misleading communication about the lawyer or the lawyer's services." In addition an attorney cannot "create an unjustified expectation about results the lawyer can achieve." Rule 7.3 states that "a lawyer may not solicit professional employment from a prospective client with whom the lawyer has no family or prior professional relationship." The Panel agrees that the purpose of the letter is to inform the public of specific legislation and not to solicit or mislead the public.