

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL
OPINION #93-62, REQUEST #401
Issued September 14, 1993

Attorney A is a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Attorney B serves as legal counsel to a legislative leader and is paid through the Joint Committee on Legislative Affairs (JCLA). Attorneys A and B desire to form a partnership or association for the practice of law. They intend to segregate their funds so that Attorney A will not receive any of Attorney B's compensation from the JCLA. Attorney A and B ask whether such a partnership or association would be permissible under the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Panel believes that the proposed formation of a law partnership or association by Attorneys A and B does not in itself violate the Rules of Professional Conduct. However, the Panel cannot speculate as to potential situations which may arise in the future, and further reminds the inquiring attorneys of their obligation to comply with the provisions of Rule 1.11 entitled "Successive Government and Private Employment."

The Panel's guidance is restricted to interpretations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and does not extend to issues under the State Ethics Code or any other rules, regulations or laws that may have bearing on the issues raised by this inquiry.