

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL
OPINION #93-67, REQUEST #406
Issued September 14, 1993

The inquiring attorney asks whether he/she may state the words "Wills, Trusts and Probate" on business cards.

Rule 7.4 entitled "Advertising" governs this inquiry and provides, in part, as follows:

A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law. A lawyer may not, however, indicate that his or her practice is limited to or concentrated in particular fields of law unless, as part of the same communication, the lawyer also indicates that Rhode Island does not have a procedure for certification or recognition of specialization by lawyers.

The Panel concludes the words "Wills, Trusts and Probate" indicate a narrow scope of practice, and further indicate that the inquiring attorney concentrates in those disciplines. Thus, the business cards must also contain the statement "Rhode Island does not have a procedure for certification or recognition of specialization by lawyers."