

DIGEST OF ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL
OPINION #89-14, REQUEST #60
Issued July 20, 1989

An attorney seeks Panel advice concerning the propriety of attending a social gathering of local businesspeople. The attorney states that he is interested in the business-oriented and corporate areas of the law and feels that attending the gathering at issue may provide contacts with business persons who might later want to become his clients.

The Rules of Professional Conduct prohibit direct, in person solicitation of professional employment from a prospective client except under specifically enumerated circumstances. The Rules do not presume to limit a lawyer's social and civic opportunities or to prohibit a lawyer from a truthful statement of his profession and his professional interests. The Panel takes the position that the attorney may properly attend any meeting he wishes providing he abides by the provisions of Rule 7.3 and the principles set forth in the accompanying comment.

Ethics Advisory Panel advice is protective in nature. There is no requirement that an attorney abide by a Panel opinion, but if he or she does, he or she is fully protected from any charge of impropriety.