

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL  
Opinion #92-24, Request #248  
Issued May 20, 1992

An attorney seeks Panel advice regarding whether or not paralegals, legal assistants and office managers' names can be listed on law firm stationery and an office directory.

The Panel believes that it is improper for a law firm to list non-lawyers' names on the law firm's stationery and the office directory. The listing of non-lawyer employees on legal stationery and in an office directory is in itself misleading to the public. This situation can easily create public confusion and a false impression of a partnership between lawyers and non-lawyers. The Panel agrees that only the names of attorneys who are either members or associates of the firm should be listed on the firm's stationery and office directory. See also Digest of Ethics Advisory Opinion #91-42. See, Rhode Island Supreme Court, Guidelines For Use of Legal Assistants, Provisional Order No. 18, February 1, 1983.