

COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINARY RULES AND REFERENDA

Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct

VII. Information about Legal Services

Rules 7.01 – 7.07

(Lawyer Advertising and Solicitation Rules)

Below is the timeline for proposed changes to Part VII (Information about Legal Services) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, relating to lawyer advertising and solicitation communications.

Note: In response to a resolution of the State Bar Board of Directors, the Committee previously initiated and published a prior proposal on the lawyer advertising rules. After receiving and considering many public comments, the Committee voted at its April 18, 2019, meeting not to recommend the prior proposal to the Board and instead to reinitiate the rule proposal process for this revised proposal.

INITIATED – April 18, 2019

PUBLICATION – A proposed rule is withdrawn if it is not published in (1) the Texas Register and (2) the Texas Bar Journal within six months of initiation of the rule proposal process.

- **Texas Bar Journal – June 1, 2019 (Complete)**
- **Texas Register – May 31, 2019 (Complete)**

NOTE: Publications will include details on dates and participation methods for the comment period and the public hearing(s).

COMMENT PERIOD – The Committee shall give interested parties at least 30 days from the date a proposed rule is published to submit comments on the rule to the Committee. The Committee extended the comment period through **August 6, 2019**.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – The Committee held public hearings on **June 6, 2019**, and **July 23, 2019**, at the Texas Law Center.

FINAL VOTE BY COMMITTEE – The Committee shall vote on whether to recommend a proposed rule to the Board of Directors not later than the 60th day after the final day of the comment period. This vote must be held at a meeting open to the public and with notice to the public.

The Committee voted at its **September 3, 2019**, meeting to recommend the proposed rules (with amendments) to the Board of Directors.

SUBMISSION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS – The Committee shall submit a proposed disciplinary rule that is recommended by the Committee to the Board of Directors for review and consideration.

The Committee submitted the proposed rules to the Chair of the Board of Directors on **January 9, 2020**.

VOTE BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS – The Board of Directors shall vote on each proposed disciplinary rule recommended by the Committee not later than the 120th day after the date the rule is received from the Committee. The Board shall vote for or against the rule or return the rule to the Committee for additional consideration.

At its **January 16, 2020**, meeting, the Board of Directors voted to return the proposed advertising and solicitation rules to the Committee for additional consideration.

FURTHER ACTION BY COMMITTEE – At its **February 5, 2020**, meeting, the Committee voted to reinstate the rule proposal process and to publish a revised proposal on the lawyer advertising and solicitation rules. The timeline for that proposal is listed separately on the Committee’s “Docketed Requests” webpage.