

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 (TDRPC), relating to lawyer advertising and solicitation communications.

Note: The Committee previously published proposed changes to Part VII, TDRPC, in the Texas Bar Journal, in the Texas Register, and on the State Bar of Texas website. After receiving numerous comments, the Committee incorporated many suggested revisions into the version of the proposed rules that it recommended to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. At its January 24, 2020, meeting, the Board voted to return the proposal to the Committee for additional consideration, including specifically the possibility of amending the proposed rules to be consistent with the majority of other states regarding the use of trade names. At its February 5, 2020, meeting, the Committee voted to reinstate the rule proposal process and to publish a revised version of the proposed changes to Part VII, TDRPC.

INITIATED – February 5, 2020

PUBLICATION – A proposed rule is withdrawn if it is not published in (1) the Texas Register and (2) the Texas Bar Journal within six months of initiation of the rule proposal process.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 Register – February 28, 2020 (Complete)**
- **Texas Bar Journal – March 2020 (Complete)**

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

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 accepted public comments through **April 13, 2020**.

PUBLIC HEARING – The Committee held a public hearing by teleconference on **April 7, 2020**.

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 **May 6, 2020**, meeting to recommend the proposed rule changes to the Board of Directors (with amendments).

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 **June 24, 2020**, meeting, the Board voted to approve the proposed rule changes. The Board also voted to hold the proposed rule changes for submission to the Supreme Court of Texas at a later date with other rule proposals, as deemed appropriate by the Board. At a future date, the Board will petition the Supreme Court to order a vote by Bar membership on the rule proposals.

VOTE BY BAR MEMBERSHIP – On September 25, 2020, the Board of Directors approved the submission of a petition to the Supreme Court of Texas for a rules vote by Bar membership. On September 29, 2020, the Supreme Court ordered a membership vote to take place from **February 2 to March 4, 2021**, on this and other rule proposals. For more information, go to texasbar.com/rulesvote.