

OREGON RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(as effective January 1, 2026)

CONTENTS

RULE 1.0 TERMINOLOGY	2
<i>CLIENT-LAWYER RELATIONSHIP</i>	3
RULE 1.1 COMPETENCE	3
RULE 1.2 SCOPE OF REPRESENTATION AND ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN CLIENT AND LAWYER	3
RULE 1.3 DILIGENCE	4
RULE 1.4 COMMUNICATION.....	4
RULE 1.5 FEES	4
RULE 1.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.....	5
RULE 1.7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: CURRENT CLIENTS	6
RULE 1.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: CURRENT CLIENTS: SPECIFIC RULES	7
RULE 1.9 DUTIES TO FORMER CLIENTS	9
RULE 1.10 IMPUTATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; SCREENING	9
RULE 1.11 SPECIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR FORMER AND CURRENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.....	10
RULE 1.12 FORMER JUDGE, ARBITRATOR, MEDIATOR OR OTHER THIRD-PARTY NEUTRAL	12
RULE 1.13 ORGANIZATION AS CLIENT.....	12
RULE 1.14 CLIENT WITH DIMINISHED CAPACITY	13
RULE 1.15-1 SAFEKEEPING PROPERTY	14
RULE 1.15-2 [RESERVED]	14
RULE 1.16 DECLINING OR TERMINATING REPRESENTATION .	15
RULE 1.17 SALE OF LAW PRACTICE	16
RULE 1.18 DUTIES TO PROSPECTIVE CLIENT.....	17
<i>COUNSELOR</i>	18
RULE 2.1 ADVISOR	18
RULE 2.2 [RESERVED]	18
RULE 2.3 EVALUATION FOR USE BY THIRD PERSONS	18
RULE 2.4 LAWYER SERVING AS MEDIATOR.....	18
<i>ADVOCATE</i>	18
RULE 3.1 MERITORIOUS CLAIMS AND CONTENTIONS	18
RULE 3.2 [RESERVED]	19
RULE 3.3 CANDOR TOWARD THE TRIBUNAL	19
RULE 3.4 FAIRNESS TO OPPOSING PARTY AND COUNSEL.....	20
RULE 3.5 IMPARTIALITY AND DECORUM OF THE TRIBUNAL .	20
RULE 3.6 TRIAL PUBLICITY	21
RULE 3.7 LAWYER AS WITNESS.....	21
RULE 3.8 SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PROSECUTOR.....	22
RULE 3.9 ADVOCATE IN NONADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDINGS..	22
RULE 4.1 TRUTHFULNESS IN STATEMENTS TO OTHERS.....	22
RULE 4.2 COMMUNICATION WITH PERSON REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL	22
RULE 4.3 DEALING WITH UNREPRESENTED PERSONS.....	23
RULE 4.4 RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THIRD PERSONS; INADVERTENTLY SENT DOCUMENTS	23
<i>LAW FIRMS AND ASSOCIATIONS</i>	23
RULE 5.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERS, MANAGERS, AND SUPERVISORY LAWYERS	23
RULE 5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SUBORDINATE LAWYER.....	24
RULE 5.3 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING NONLAWYER ASSISTANCE	24
RULE 5.4 PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF A LAWYER	24
RULE 5.5 UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW; MULTIJURISDICTIONAL PRACTICE	25
RULE 5.6 RESTRICTIONS ON RIGHT TO PRACTICE.....	26
RULE 5.7 [RESERVED]	26
<i>PUBLIC SERVICE</i>	26
RULE 6.1 [RESERVED]	26
RULE 6.2 [RESERVED]	26
RULE 6.3 MEMBERSHIP IN LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION.	26
RULE 6.4 LAW REFORM ACTIVITIES AFFECTING CLIENT INTERESTS	26
RULE 6.5 NONPROFIT AND COURT-ANNEXED LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS	27
<i>INFORMATION ABOUT LEGAL SERVICES</i>	27
RULE 7.1 COMMUNICATION CONCERNING A LAWYER'S SERVICES	27
RULE 7.2 ADVERTISING	27
RULE 7.4 [RESERVED]	28
RULE 7.5 FIRM NAMES AND LETTERHEADS	28
RULE 7.6 [RESERVED]	29
<i>MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROFESSION</i>	29
RULE 8.1 BAR ADMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS	29
RULE 8.2 JUDICIAL AND LEGAL OFFICIALS.....	29
RULE 8.3 REPORTING PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT	29
RULE 8.4 MISCONDUCT.....	30
RULE 8.5 DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY; CHOICE OF LAW	31
RULE 8.6 WRITTEN ADVISORY OPINIONS ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT; CONSIDERATION GIVEN IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS	31

RULE 1.0 TERMINOLOGY

(a) "Belief" or "believes" denotes that the person involved actually supposes the fact in question to be true. A person's belief may be inferred from circumstances.

(b) "Confirmed in writing," when used in reference to the informed consent of a person, denotes informed consent that is given in writing by the person or a writing that a lawyer promptly transmits to the person confirming an oral informed consent. See paragraph (g) for the definition of "informed consent." If it is not feasible to obtain or transmit the writing at the time the person gives informed consent, then the lawyer must obtain or transmit it within a reasonable time thereafter.

(c) "Electronic communication" includes but is not limited to messages sent to newsgroups, listservs and bulletin boards; messages sent via electronic mail; and real time interactive communications such as conversations in internet chat groups and conference areas and video conferencing.

(d) "Firm" or "law firm" denotes a lawyer or lawyers, including "Of Counsel" lawyers; LP or LPs; a combination thereof in a law partnership, professional corporation, sole proprietorship or other association authorized to practice law; or lawyers or LPs employed in a private or public legal aid or public defender organization, a legal services organization or the legal department of a corporation or other public or private organization. Any other lawyer or LP, including an office sharer or a lawyer or LP working for or with a firm on a limited basis, is not a member of a firm absent indicia sufficient to establish a de facto law firm among the lawyers involved.

(e) "Fraud" or "fraudulent" denotes conduct that is fraudulent under the substantive or procedural law of the applicable jurisdiction and has a purpose to deceive.

(f) "Information relating to the representation of a client" denotes both information protected by the attorney-client privilege under applicable law, and other information gained in a current or former professional relationship that the client has requested be held inviolate or the disclosure of which would be embarrassing or would be likely to be detrimental to the client.

(g) "Informed consent" denotes the agreement by a person to a proposed course of conduct after the lawyer has communicated adequate information and explanation about the material risks of and reasonably available alternatives to the proposed course of conduct. When informed consent is required by these Rules to be confirmed in writing or to be given in a

writing signed by the client, the lawyer shall give and the writing shall reflect a recommendation that the client seek independent legal advice to determine if consent should be given.

(h) "Knowingly," "known," or "knows" denotes actual knowledge of the fact in question, except that for purposes of determining a lawyer's knowledge of the existence of a conflict of interest, all facts which the lawyer knew, or by the exercise of reasonable care should have known, will be attributed to the lawyer. A person's knowledge may be inferred from circumstances.

(i) "Matter" includes any judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, investigation, charge, accusation, arrest or other particular matter involving a specific party or parties; and any other matter covered by the conflict of interest rules of a government agency.

(j) "Partner" denotes a member of a partnership, a shareholder in a law firm organized as a professional corporation, or a member of an association authorized to practice law.

(k) "Reasonable" or "reasonably" when used in relation to conduct by a lawyer denotes the conduct of a reasonably prudent and competent lawyer.

(l) "Reasonable belief" or "reasonably believes" when used in reference to a lawyer denotes that the lawyer believes the matter in question and that the circumstances are such that the belief is reasonable.

(m) "Reasonably should know" when used in reference to a lawyer denotes that a lawyer of reasonable prudence and competence would ascertain the matter in question.

(n) "Screened" denotes the isolation of a lawyer from any participation in a matter through the timely imposition of procedures within a firm that are reasonably adequate under the circumstances to protect information that the isolated lawyer is obligated to protect under these Rules or other law.

(o) "Substantial" when used in reference to degree or extent denotes a material matter of clear and weighty importance.

(p) "Tribunal" denotes a court, an arbitrator in a binding arbitration proceeding or a legislative body, administrative agency or other body acting in an adjudicative capacity. A legislative body, administrative agency or other body acts in an adjudicative capacity when a neutral official, after the presentation of evidence or legal argument by a party or parties, will render a binding legal judgment directly affecting a party's interests in a particular matter.

(q) "Writing" or "written" denotes a tangible or electronic record of a communication or representation, including handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostatting, photography, audio or videorecording and electronic communications. A "signed" writing includes an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the writing.

LP TERMINOLOGY

(r) "Licensed Paralegal" or "LP" is an individual licensed by the Oregon State Bar as a licensed paralegal and authorized under the law to perform limited legal services within a defined scope of practice as set forth in the Rules for Licensing Paralegals in Oregon.

(s) "LP Rule" denotes the Rules of Professional Conduct for LPs.

(t) "Scope of practice" denotes the defined limited legal services an LP may provide as set forth within the Rules for Licensing Paralegals in Oregon.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: "Electronic communications" substituted for "email."

Amended 01/01/26: "Firm" adds Licensed Paralegal to definition. Definitions referring to LP terminology within the RPCs added as paragraphs (r), (s), and (t).

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 10-101 and is significantly more expansive. Some DR 10-101 definitions were retained, but others were not incorporated into this rule.

The definition of "firm member" was eliminated as not necessary, but a reference to "of counsel" was retained in the definition of "firm." The definition of "firm" also distinguishes office sharers and lawyers working in a firm on a limited basis.

The concept of "full disclosure" is replaced by "informed consent," which, in some cases, must be "confirmed in writing."

The definition of "professional legal corporation" was deleted, as the term does not appear in any of the rules and does not require explanation.

The definitions of "person" and "state" were also eliminated as being unnecessary.

CLIENT-LAWYER RELATIONSHIP

RULE 1.1 COMPETENCE

A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Reasonably"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is identical to DR 6-101(A).

RULE 1.2 SCOPE OF REPRESENTATION AND ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN CLIENT AND LAWYER

(a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation and, as required by Rule 1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. A lawyer may take such action on behalf of the client as is impliedly authorized to carry out the representation. A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision whether to settle a matter. In a criminal case, the lawyer shall abide by the client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, as to a plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial and whether the client will testify.

(b) A lawyer may limit the scope of the representation if the limitation is reasonable under the circumstances and the client gives informed consent.

(c) A lawyer shall not counsel a client to engage, or assist a client, in conduct that the lawyer knows is illegal or fraudulent, but a lawyer may discuss the legal consequences of any proposed course of conduct with a client and may counsel or assist a client to make a good faith effort to determine the validity, scope, meaning or application of the law.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), a lawyer may counsel and assist a client in a proposed course of conduct that the lawyer reasonably believes is permitted under Oregon law. In the event Oregon law conflicts with federal law or the law of another jurisdiction, the lawyer may also advise the client regarding such conflict and the potential legal consequences.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 02/19/15: Paragraph (d) added.

Amended 01/01/24: Paragraph (d) amended.

Corrected 05/01/25: Paragraph (d) corrected.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Fraudulent"

"Informed consent"

"Knows"

"Matter"

"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no real counterpart in the Oregon Code. Subsection (a) is similar to DR 7-101(A) and (B), but expresses more clearly that lawyers must defer to the client's decisions about the objectives of the representation and whether to settle a matter. Subsection (b) is a clarification of the lawyer's right to limit the scope of a representation. Subsection (c) is similar to DR 7-102(A)(7), but recognizes that counseling a client about the meaning of a law or the consequences of proposed illegal or fraudulent conduct is not the same as assisting the client in such conduct. Paragraph (d) had no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

RULE 1.3 DILIGENCE

A lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Matter"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is identical to DR 6-101(B).

RULE 1.4 COMMUNICATION

(a) A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

(b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Corrected 01/01/26. Paragraph (a) corrected.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

"Reasonable"

"Reasonably"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code, although the duty to communicate with a client may be inferred from other rules and from the law of agency.

RULE 1.5 FEES

(a) A lawyer shall not enter into an agreement for, charge or collect an illegal or clearly excessive fee or a clearly excessive amount for expenses.

(b) A fee is clearly excessive when, after a review of the facts, a lawyer of ordinary prudence would be left with a definite and firm conviction that the fee is in excess of a reasonable fee. Factors to be considered as guides in determining the reasonableness of a fee include the following:

- (1) the time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly;**
- (2) the likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer;**
- (3) the fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services;**
- (4) the amount involved and the results obtained;**
- (5) the time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances;**
- (6) the nature and length of the professional relationship with the client;**
- (7) the experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer, lawyers, or LPs performing the services; and**
- (8) whether the fee is fixed or contingent.**

(c) A lawyer shall not enter into an arrangement for, charge or collect:

- (1) any fee in a domestic relations matter, the payment or amount of which is contingent upon the securing of a divorce or upon the amount of spousal or child support or a property settlement;**
- (2) a contingent fee for representing a defendant in a criminal case; or**
- (3) a fee denominated as "earned on receipt," "nonrefundable," or similar terms.**
- (4) a fee described as a "prepaid fee" or similar terms, unless it is pursuant to a written agreement signed by the client that explains**
 - (i) the nature of the fee arrangement and the scope of the services to be provided;**
 - (ii) the total amount of the fee and the terms of payment;**

- (iii) that the fee will not be deposited into a lawyer trust account;
- (iv) that the client may terminate the services of the attorney at any time for any reason or no reason; and
- (v) that the client may be entitled to a refund of all or part of a fee if the services for which the fee was paid are not completed and how any such refund would be calculated.

(d) A division of a fee between lawyers, or lawyers and LPs, who are not in the same firm may be made only if:

- (1) the client gives informed consent to the fact that there will be a division of fees;
- (2) the total fee of the lawyers for all legal services they rendered the client is not clearly excessive; and
- (3) if the division of a fee is between a lawyer and an LP, the division is in proportion to the services performed by each lawyer and LP.

(e) Paragraph (d) does not prohibit payments to a lawyer or LP who is a former firm member pursuant to a separation or retirement agreement, or payments to a selling lawyer or LP for the sale of a law practice pursuant to Rule 1.17 or the equivalent LP Rule.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/10: Paragraph (c)(3) added.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph (b)(7) add reference to LP; paragraph (c)(3) amended to no longer allow "earned on receipt" or "nonrefundable" in fee agreement; paragraph (c)(4) added related to prepaid fee agreement; paragraph (d) amended and (d)(3) added to allow for division of fee between LP and lawyer in different firms; paragraph (e) amended to allow payment to LP pursuant to separation or retirement agreement.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Firm"
 "Informed Consent"
 "LP"
 "LP Rule"
 "Matter"
 "Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c)(1) and (2) are taken directly from DR 2-106, except that paragraph (a) is amended to include the Model Rule prohibition against charging a "clearly excessive amount for expenses." Paragraph (c)(3) had no counterpart in the Code. Paragraph (d) retains the substantive obligations of DR 2-107(A) but is rewritten to accommodate the new concepts of

"informed consent" and "clearly excessive." Paragraph (e) is essentially identical to DR 2-107(B).

RULE 1.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

- (a) A lawyer shall not reveal information relating to the representation of a client unless the client gives informed consent, the disclosure is impliedly authorized in order to carry out the representation or the disclosure is permitted by paragraph (b).
- (b) A lawyer may reveal information relating to the representation of a client to the extent the lawyer reasonably believes necessary:
 - (1) to disclose the intention of the lawyer's client to commit a crime and the information necessary to prevent the crime;
 - (2) to prevent reasonably certain death or substantial bodily harm;
 - (3) to secure legal advice about the lawyer's compliance with these Rules;
 - (4) to establish a claim or defense on behalf of the lawyer in a controversy between the lawyer and the client, to establish a defense to a criminal charge or civil claim against the lawyer based upon conduct in which the client was involved, or to respond to allegations in any proceeding concerning the lawyer's representation of the client;
 - (5) to comply with other law, court order, or as permitted by these Rules; or
 - (6) in connection with the sale of a law practice under Rule 1.17 or to detect and resolve conflicts of interest arising from the lawyer's change of employment or from changes in the composition or ownership of a firm. In those circumstances, a lawyer may disclose with respect to each affected client the client's identity, the identities of any adverse parties, the nature and extent of the legal services involved, and fee and payment information, but only if the information revealed would not compromise the attorney-client privilege or otherwise prejudice any of the clients. The lawyer, lawyers, or LPs receiving the information shall have the same responsibilities as the disclosing lawyer or LP to preserve the information regardless of the outcome of the contemplated transaction.
 - (7) to comply with the terms of a diversion agreement, probation, conditional reinstatement or conditional admission pursuant to BR 2.10, BR 6.2, BR 8.7 or Rule for Admission Rule 6.15. A lawyer serving as a monitor of another lawyer or LP

on diversion, probation, conditional reinstatement or conditional admission shall have the same responsibilities as the monitored lawyer to preserve information relating to the representation of the monitored lawyer's or LP's clients, except to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the monitoring lawyer's responsibilities under the terms of the diversion, probation, conditional reinstatement or conditional admission and in any proceeding relating thereto.

(c) A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of, or unauthorized access to, information relating to the representation of a client.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (b)(6) amended to substitute "information relating to the representation of a client" for "confidences and secrets."

Amended 01/20/09: Paragraph (b)(7) added.

Amended 01/01/14: Paragraph (6) modified to allow certain disclosures to avoid conflicts arising from a change of employment or ownership of a firm. Paragraph (c) added.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraphs (b)(6) and (b)(7) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"
"Firm"
"Information relating to the representation of a client"
"Informed Consent"
"LP"
"Reasonable"
"Reasonably"
"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 4-101(A) through (C). The most significant difference is the substitution of "information relating to the representation of a client" for "confidences and secrets." Paragraph (a) includes the exceptions for client consent found in DR 4-101(C)(1) and allows disclosures "impliedly authorized" to carry out the representation, which is similar to the exception in DR 4-101(C)(2).

The exceptions to the duty of confidentiality set forth in paragraph (b) incorporate those found in DR 4-101(C)(2) through (C)(5). There are also two new exceptions not found in the Oregon Code: disclosures to prevent "reasonably certain death or substantial bodily harm" whether or not the action is a crime, and disclosures to

obtain legal advice about compliance with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Paragraph (b)(6) in the Oregon Code pertained only to the sale of a law practice.

Paragraph (b)(7) had no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

RULE 1.7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: CURRENT CLIENTS

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a lawyer shall not represent a client if the representation involves a current conflict of interest. A current conflict of interest exists if:

- (1) the representation of one client will be directly adverse to another client;**
- (2) there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer; or**
- (3) the lawyer is related to another lawyer or LP, as parent, child, sibling, spouse or domestic partner, in a matter adverse to a person whom the lawyer knows is represented by the other lawyer or LP in the same matter.**

(b) Notwithstanding the existence of a current conflict of interest under paragraph (a), a lawyer may represent a client if:

- (1) the lawyer reasonably believes that the lawyer will be able to provide competent and diligent representation to each affected client;**
- (2) the representation is not prohibited by law;**
- (3) the representation does not obligate the lawyer to contend for something on behalf of one client that the lawyer has a duty to oppose on behalf of another client; and**
- (4) each affected client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing.**

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph (a)(3) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"
"Confirmed in writing"
"Informed consent"
"Knows"
"LP"
"Matter"
"Reasonably believes"

Comparison to Oregon Code

The current conflicts of interest prohibited in paragraph (a) are the self-interest conflicts currently prohibited by DR 5-101(A) and current client conflicts prohibited by DR 5-105(E). Paragraph (a)(2) refers only to a “personal interest” of a lawyer, rather than the specific “financial, business, property or personal interests” enumerated in DR 5-101(A)(1). Paragraph (a)(3) incorporates the “family conflicts” from DR 5-101(A)(2).

Paragraph (b) parallels DR 5-101(A) and DR 5-105(F) in permitting a representation otherwise prohibited if the affected clients give informed consent, which must be confirmed in writing. Paragraph (b)(3) incorporates the “actual conflict” definition of DR 5-105(A)(1) to make it clear that that a lawyer cannot provide competent and diligent representation to clients in that situation.

Paragraph (b) also allows consent to simultaneous representation “not prohibited by law,” which has no counterpart in the Oregon Code. According to the official Comment to MR 1.7 this would apply, for instance, in jurisdictions that prohibit a lawyer from representing more than one defendant in a capital case, to certain representations by former government lawyers, or when local law prohibits a government client from consenting to a conflict of interest.

RULE 1.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: CURRENT CLIENTS: SPECIFIC RULES

(a) A lawyer shall not enter into a business transaction with a client or knowingly acquire an ownership, possessory, security or other pecuniary interest adverse to a client unless:

- (1) the transaction and terms on which the lawyer acquires the interest are fair and reasonable to the client and are fully disclosed and transmitted in writing in a manner that can be reasonably understood by the client;**
- (2) the client is advised in writing of the desirability of seeking and is given a reasonable opportunity to seek the advice of independent legal counsel on the transaction; and**
- (3) the client gives informed consent, in a writing signed by the client, to the essential terms of the transaction and the lawyer's role in the transaction, including whether the lawyer is representing the client in the transaction.**

(b) A lawyer shall not use information relating to representation of a client to the disadvantage of the client unless the client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing, except as permitted or required under these Rules.

(c) A lawyer shall not solicit any substantial gift from a client, including a testamentary gift, or prepare on behalf of a client an instrument giving the lawyer or a person related to the lawyer any substantial gift, unless the lawyer or other recipient of the gift is related to the client. For purposes of this paragraph, related persons include a spouse, domestic partner, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or other relative or individual with whom the lawyer or the client maintains a close familial relationship.

(d) Prior to the conclusion of representation of a client, a lawyer shall not make or negotiate an agreement giving the lawyer literary or media rights to a portrayal or account based in substantial part on information relating to the representation.

(e) A lawyer shall not provide financial assistance to a client in connection with pending or contemplated litigation, except that:

- (1) a lawyer may advance court costs and expenses of litigation, the repayment of which may be contingent on the outcome of the matter;**
- (2) a lawyer representing an indigent client may pay court costs and expenses of litigation on behalf of the client; and**
- (3) a lawyer representing an indigent client pro bono, a lawyer representing an indigent client through a nonprofit legal services or public interest organization, and a lawyer representing an indigent client through a court appointment, or through a law school clinical or pro bono program, may provide modest gifts to the client for food, rent, transportation, medicine, and other basic living expenses. The lawyer:**
 - (i) may not promise, assure, or imply the availability of such gifts prior to retention or as an inducement to continue the client-lawyer relationship after retention;**
 - (ii) may not seek or accept reimbursement from the client, a relative of the client or anyone affiliated with the client; and**
 - (iii) may not publicize or advertise a willingness to provide such gifts to prospective clients.**

Financial assistance under this Rule may be provided even if the representation is eligible for fees under a fee-shifting statute.

(f) A lawyer shall not accept compensation for representing a client from one other than the client unless:

- (1) the client gives informed consent;**

(2) there is no interference with the lawyer's independence of professional judgment or with the client-lawyer relationship; and

(3) information related to the representation of a client is protected as required by Rule 1.6.

(g) A lawyer who represents two or more clients shall not participate in making an aggregate settlement of the claims of or against the clients, or in a criminal case an aggregate agreement as to guilty or nolo contendere pleas, unless each client gives informed consent, in a writing signed by the client. The lawyer's disclosure shall include the existence and nature of all the claims or pleas involved and of the participation of each person in the settlement.

(h) A lawyer shall not:

(1) make an agreement prospectively limiting the lawyer's liability to a client for malpractice unless the client is independently represented in making the agreement;

(2) settle a claim or potential claim for such liability with an unrepresented client or former client unless that person is advised in writing of the desirability of seeking and is given a reasonable opportunity to seek the advice of independent legal counsel in connection therewith;

(3) enter into any agreement with a client regarding arbitration of malpractice claims without informed consent, in a writing signed by the client; or

(4) enter into an agreement with a client or former client limiting or purporting to limit the right of the client or former client to file or to pursue any complaint before the Oregon State Bar.

(i) A lawyer shall not acquire a proprietary interest in the cause of action or subject matter of litigation the lawyer is conducting for a client, except that the lawyer may:

(1) acquire a lien authorized by law to secure the lawyer's fee or expenses; and

(2) contract with a client for a reasonable contingent fee in a civil case.

(j) A lawyer shall not have sexual relations with a current client of the lawyer unless a consensual sexual relationship existed between them before the client-lawyer relationship commenced; or have sexual relations with a representative of a current client of the lawyer if the sexual relations would, or would likely, damage or prejudice the client in the representation. For purposes of this rule:

(1) "sexual relations" means sexual intercourse or any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts

of a person or causing such person to touch the sexual or other intimate parts of the lawyer for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of either party; and

(2) "lawyer" means any lawyer who assists in the representation of the client, but does not include other firm members who provide no such assistance.

(k) While lawyers are associated in a firm, a prohibition in the foregoing paragraphs (a) through (i) that applies to any one of them shall apply to all of them.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/13: Paragraph (e) amended.

Amended 01/01/24: Paragraph (e)(3) added.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Confirmed in writing"

"Information relating to the representation of a client"

"Informed consent"

"Firm"

"Knowingly"

"Matter"

"Reasonable"

"Reasonably"

"Substantial"

"Writing"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no exact counterpart in the Oregon Code, although it incorporates prohibitions found in several separate disciplinary rules.

Paragraph (a) replaces DR 5-104(A) and incorporates the Model Rule prohibition against business transactions with clients even with consent except where the transaction is "fair and reasonable" to the client. It also includes an express requirement to disclose the lawyer's role and whether the lawyer is representing the client in the transaction.

Paragraph (b) is virtually identical to DR 4-101(B).

Paragraph (c) is similar to DR 5-101(B), but broader because it prohibits soliciting a gift as well as preparing the instrument. It also has a more inclusive list of "related persons."

Paragraph (d) is identical to DR 5-104(B).

Paragraph (e) incorporates ABA Model Rule 1.8(e).

Paragraph (f) replaces DR 5-108(A) and (B) and is essentially the same as it relates to accepting payment from someone other than the client. This rule is somewhat narrower than DR 5-108(B), which prohibits

allowing influence from someone who “recommends, employs or pays” the lawyer.

Paragraph (g) is virtually identical to DR 5-107(A).

Paragraph (h)(1) and (2) are similar to DR 6-102(A), but do not include the “unless permitted by law” language. Paragraph (h)(3) retains DR 6-102(B), but substitutes “informed consent, in a writing signed by the client” for “full disclosure.” Paragraph (h)(4) is new and was taken from Illinois Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(h).

Paragraph (i) is essentially the same as DR 5-103(A).

Paragraph (j) retains DR 5-110, reformatted to conform to the structure of the rule.

Paragraph (k) applies the same vicarious disqualification to these personal conflicts as provided in DR 5-105(G).

RULE 1.9 DUTIES TO FORMER CLIENTS

(a) A lawyer who has formerly represented a client in a matter shall not thereafter represent another person in the same or a substantially related matter in which that person's interests are materially adverse to the interests of the former client unless each affected client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing.

(b) A lawyer shall not knowingly represent a person in the same or a substantially related matter in which a firm with which the lawyer formerly was associated had previously represented a client:

(1) whose interests are materially adverse to that person; and

(2) about whom the lawyer had acquired information protected by Rules 1.6 and 1.9(c) that is material to the matter, unless each affected client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing.

(c) A lawyer who has formerly represented a client in a matter or whose present or former firm has formerly represented a client in a matter shall not thereafter:

(1) use information relating to the representation to the disadvantage of the former client except as these Rules would permit or require with respect to a client, or when the information has become generally known; or

(2) reveal information relating to the representation except as these Rules would permit or require with respect to a client.

(d) For purposes of this rule, matters are “substantially related” if (1) the lawyer's representation of the current client will injure or damage the former client in connection with the same transaction or legal dispute in which the lawyer previously represented the former client; or (2) there is a substantial risk that confidential

factual information as would normally have been obtained in the prior representation of the former client would materially advance the current client's position in the subsequent matter.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (d) added.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

“Confirmed in writing”
“Informed consent”
“Firm”
“Knowingly”
“Known”
“Matter”
“Reasonable”
“Substantial”

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 5-105(C), (D) and (H). Like Rule 1.7, this rule is a significant departure from the language and structure of the Oregon Code provisions on conflicts.

Paragraph (a) replaces the sometimes confusing reference to “actual or likely conflict” between current and former client with the simpler “interests [that are] materially adverse.” The prohibition applies to matters that are the same or “substantially related,” which is virtually identical to the Oregon Code standard of “significantly related.”

Paragraph (b) replaces the limitation of DR 5-105(H), but is an arguably clearer expression of the prohibition. The new language makes it clear that a lawyer who moves to a new firm is prohibited from being adverse to a client of the lawyer's former firm only if the lawyer has acquired confidential information material to the matter while at the former firm.

Paragraph (c) makes clear that the duty not to use confidential information to the client's disadvantage continues after the conclusion of the representation, except where the information “has become generally known.”

Paragraph (d) defines “substantially related.” The definition is taken in part from former DR 5-105(D) and in part from Comment [3] to ABA Model Rule 1.9.

RULE 1.10 IMPUTATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; SCREENING

(a) While lawyers or LPs are associated in a firm, none of them shall knowingly represent a client when any one of them practicing alone would be prohibited from doing so by Rules 1.7, 1.9, or the equivalent LP Rules, unless the prohibition is based on a personal interest of the prohibited lawyer or LP or on Rule 1.7(a)(3), or the equivalent LP Rule, and does not present a significant

risk of materially limiting the representation of the client by the remaining lawyers in the firm.

(b) When a lawyer has terminated an association with a firm, the firm is not prohibited from thereafter representing a person with interests materially adverse to those of a client represented by the formerly associated lawyer and not currently represented by the firm, unless:

- (1) the matter is the same or substantially related to that in which the formerly associated lawyer represented the client; and**
- (2) any lawyer remaining in the firm has information protected by Rules 1.6 and 1.9(c) that is material to the matter.**

(c) When a lawyer or LP becomes associated with a firm, no lawyer associated in the firm shall knowingly represent a person in a matter in which that lawyer or LP is disqualified under Rule 1.9 or the equivalent LP Rule, unless the personally disqualified lawyer or LP is promptly screened from any form of participation or representation in the matter and written notice of the screening procedures employed is promptly given to any affected former client.

(d) A disqualification prescribed by this rule may be waived by the affected clients under the conditions stated in Rule 1.7.

(e) The disqualification of lawyers associated in a firm with former or current government lawyers is governed by Rule 1.11.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (a) amended to include reference to Rule 1.7(a)(3).

Amended 01/01/14: Paragraph (c) revised to eliminate detailed screening requirements and to require notice to the affected client rather than the lawyer's former firm.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraphs (a) and (c) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Firm"
"Know"
"Knowingly"
"Law firm"
"LP"
"LP Rule"
"Matter"
"Screened"
"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is similar to the vicarious disqualification provisions of DR 5-105(G), except that it does not apply when the disqualification is based only on a "personal interest" of the disqualified lawyer that will not limit the ability of the other lawyers in the firm to represent the client.

Paragraph (b) is substantially the same as DR 5-105(J).

Paragraph (d) is similar to DR 5-105 in allowing clients to consent to what would otherwise be imputed conflicts.

Paragraph (e) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code because the Oregon Code does not have a special rule addressing government lawyer conflicts.

The title was changed to include "Screening."

RULE 1.11 SPECIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR FORMER AND CURRENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

(a) Except as Rule 1.12 or law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer who has formerly served as a public officer or employee of the government:

- (1) is subject to Rule 1.9 (c); and**
- (2) shall not otherwise represent a client in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a public officer or employee, unless the appropriate government agency gives its informed consent, confirmed in writing, to the representation.**

(b) When a lawyer or LP is disqualified from representation under paragraph (a) or the equivalent LP Rule, no lawyer in a firm with which that lawyer or LP is associated may knowingly undertake or continue representation in such a matter unless:

- (1) the disqualified lawyer or LP is timely screened from any participation in the matter substantially in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 1.10(c) or the equivalent LP Rule; and**
- (2) written notice is promptly given to the appropriate government agency to enable it to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this rule.**

(c) Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer having information that the lawyer knows is confidential government information about a person acquired when the lawyer was a public officer or employee, may not represent a private client whose interests are adverse to that person in a matter in which the information could be used to the material disadvantage of that person. As used in this Rule, the term "confidential government information" means information that has been obtained under

governmental authority and which, at the time this Rule is applied, the government is prohibited by law from disclosing to the public or has a legal privilege not to disclose and which is not otherwise available to the public. A firm with which that lawyer is associated may undertake or continue representation in the matter only if the disqualified lawyer is timely screened from any participation in the matter substantially in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 1.10(c).

(d) Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer currently serving as a public officer or employee:

(1) is subject to Rules 1.7 and 1.9; and

(2) shall not:

(i) use the lawyer's public position to obtain, or attempt to obtain, special advantage in legislative matters for the lawyer or for a client.

(ii) use the lawyer's public position to influence, or attempt to influence, a tribunal to act in favor of the lawyer or of a client.

(iii) accept anything of value from any person when the lawyer knows or it is obvious that the offer is for the purpose of influencing the lawyer's action as a public official.

(iv) either while in office or after leaving office use information the lawyer knows is confidential government information obtained while a public official to represent a private client.

(v) participate in a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially while in private practice or nongovernmental employment, unless the lawyer's former client and the appropriate government agency give informed consent, confirmed in writing; or

(vi) negotiate for private employment with any person who is involved as a party or as lawyer for a party in a matter in which the lawyer is participating personally and substantially, except that a lawyer serving as a law clerk or staff lawyer to or otherwise assisting in the official duties of a judge, other adjudicative officer or arbitrator may negotiate for private employment as permitted by Rule 1.12(b) and subject to the conditions stated in Rule 1.12(b).

(e) Notwithstanding any Rule of Professional Conduct, and consistent with the "debate" clause, Article IV, section 9, of the Oregon Constitution, or the "speech or debate" clause, Article I, section 6, of the United States Constitution, a lawyer-legislator shall not be subject to discipline for words uttered in debate in either house of

the Oregon Legislative Assembly or for any speech or debate in either house of the United States Congress.

(f) A member of a lawyer-legislator's firm shall not be subject to discipline for representing a client in any claim against the State of Oregon provided:

(1) the lawyer-legislator is screened from participation or representation in the matter in accordance with the procedure set forth in Rule 1.10(c) (the required affidavits shall be served on the Attorney General); and

(2) the lawyer-legislator shall not directly or indirectly receive a fee for such representation.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraphs (b) and (b)(1) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Confirmed in writing"

"Informed consent"

"Firm"

"Knowingly"

"Knows"

"LP"

"LP Rule"

"Matter"

"Screened"

"Substantial"

"Tribunal"

"Written"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no exact counterpart in the Oregon Code, under which the responsibilities of government lawyers are addressed in DR 5-109 and DR 8-101, as well as in the general conflict limitations of DR 5-105. This rule puts all the requirements for government lawyers in one place.

Paragraph (a) is essentially the same as DR 5-109(B).

Paragraph (b) imputes a former government lawyer's unconsented-to conflicts to the new firm unless the former government lawyer is screened from participation in the matter, as would be allowed under DR 5-105(I).

Paragraph (c) incorporates the prohibitions in DR 8-101(A)(1), (A)(4) and (B). It also allows screening of the disqualified lawyer to avoid disqualification of the entire firm.

Paragraph (d) applies concurrent and former client conflicts to lawyers currently serving as a public officer or employee; it also incorporates in (d)(2) (i) –(iv) the limitations in DR 8-101(A)(1)-(4), with the addition in (d)(2)(iv) of language from MR 1.11 that a lawyer is

prohibited from using only that government information that the lawyer knows is confidential. Paragraph (d)(2)(v) is the converse of DR 5-109(B), and has no counterpart in the Oregon Code other than the general former client conflict provision of DR 5-105. Paragraph (d)(2)(vi) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code; it is an absolute bar to negotiating for private employment while a serving in a non-judicial government position for anyone other than a law clerk or staff lawyer assisting in the official duties of a judicial officer.

Paragraph (e) is taken from DR 8-101(C) to retain a relatively recent addition to the Oregon Code.

Paragraph (f) is taken from DR 8-101(D), also to retain a relatively recent addition to the Oregon Code.

RULE 1.12 FORMER JUDGE, ARBITRATOR, MEDIATOR OR OTHER THIRD-PARTY NEUTRAL

(a) Except as stated in paragraph (d) and Rule 2.4(b), a lawyer shall not represent anyone in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a judge or other adjudicative officer or law clerk to such a person or as an arbitrator, mediator or other third-party neutral, unless all parties to the proceeding give informed consent, confirmed in writing.

(b) A lawyer shall not negotiate for employment with any person who is involved as a party or as lawyer or LP for a party in a matter in which the lawyer is participating personally and substantially as a judge or other adjudicative officer or as an arbitrator, mediator or other third-party neutral. A lawyer serving as a law clerk or staff lawyer to or otherwise assisting in the official duties of a judge or other adjudicative officer may negotiate for employment with a party, lawyer, or LP involved in a matter in which the clerk is participating personally and substantially, but only after the lawyer has notified the judge or other adjudicative officer.

(c) If a lawyer or LP is disqualified by paragraph (a) or the equivalent LP Rule, no lawyer in a firm with which that lawyer or LP is associated may knowingly undertake or continue representation in the matter unless:

(1) the disqualified lawyer or LP is timely screened from any participation in the matter substantially in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 1.10(c) or the equivalent LP Rule; and

(2) written notice is promptly given to the parties and any appropriate tribunal to enable them to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this rule.

(d) An arbitrator selected as a partisan of a party in a multimember arbitration panel is not prohibited from subsequently representing that party.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: References in paragraph (a) reversed.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraphs (b), (c) and (c)(1) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Confirmed in writing"

"Informed consent"

"Firm"

"Knowingly"

"LP"

"LP Rule"

"Matter"

"Screened"

"Substantial"

"Tribunal"

"Written"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is essentially the same as DR 5-109(A), with an exception created for lawyers serving as mediators under Rule 2.4(b).

Paragraph (b) has no equivalent rule in the Oregon Code; like Rule 1.11(d)(2)(vi) it address the conflict that arises when a person serving as, or as a clerk or staff lawyer to, a judge or other third party neutral, negotiates for employment with a party or a party's lawyer. This situation is covered under DR 5-101(A), but its application may not be as clear.

Paragraph (c) applies the vicarious disqualification that would be imposed under DR 5-105(G) to a DR 5-109 conflict; the screening provision is broader than DR 5-105(I), which is limited to lawyers moving between firms.

Paragraph (d) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

RULE 1.13 ORGANIZATION AS CLIENT

(a) A lawyer employed or retained by an organization represents the organization acting through its duly authorized constituents.

(b) If a lawyer for an organization knows that an officer, employee or other person associated with the organization is engaged in action, intends to act or refuses to act in a matter related to the representation that is a violation of a legal obligation to the organization, or a violation of law which reasonably might be imputed to the organization, and that is likely

to result in substantial injury to the organization, then the lawyer shall proceed as is reasonably necessary in the best interest of the organization. Unless the lawyer reasonably believes that it is not necessary in the best interest of the organization to do so, the lawyer shall refer the matter to higher authority in the organization, including, if warranted by the circumstances, referral to the highest authority that can act on behalf of the organization as determined by applicable law.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (d), if

(1) despite the lawyer's efforts in accordance with paragraph (b) the highest authority that can act on behalf of the organization insists upon or fails to address in a timely and appropriate manner an action or a refusal to act, that is clearly a violation of law, and

(2) the lawyer reasonably believes that the violation is reasonably certain to result in substantial injury to the organization, then the lawyer may reveal information relating to the representation whether or not Rule 1.6 permits such disclosure, but only if and to the extent the lawyer reasonably believes necessary to prevent substantial injury to the organization.

(d) Paragraph (c) shall not apply with respect to information relating to a lawyer's representation of an organization to investigate an alleged violation of law, or to defend the organization or an officer, employee or other constituent associated with the organization against a claim arising out of an alleged violation of law.

(e) A lawyer who reasonably believes that he or she has been discharged because of the lawyer's actions taken pursuant to paragraphs (b) or (c), or who withdraws under circumstances that require or permit the lawyer to take action under either of those paragraphs, shall proceed as the lawyer reasonably believes necessary to assure that the organization's highest authority is informed of the lawyer's discharge or withdrawal.

(f) In dealing with an organization's directors, officers, employees, members, shareholders or other constituents, a lawyer shall explain the identity of the client when the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the organization's interests are adverse to those of the constituents with whom the lawyer is dealing.

(g) A lawyer representing an organization may also represent any of its directors, officers, employees, members, shareholders or other constituents, subject to the provisions of Rule 1.7. If the organization's consent to the dual representation is required by Rule 1.7, the consent may only be given by an appropriate

official of the organization other than the individual who is to be represented, or by the shareholders.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (b) amended.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"

"Information relating to the representation"

"Knows"

"Matter"

"Reasonable"

"Reasonably"

"Reasonably believes"

"Reasonably should know"

"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

RULE 1.14 CLIENT WITH DIMINISHED CAPACITY

(a) When a client's capacity to make adequately considered decisions in connection with a representation is diminished, whether because of minority, mental impairment or for some other reason, the lawyer shall, as far as reasonably possible, maintain a normal client-lawyer relationship with the client.

(b) When the lawyer reasonably believes that the client has diminished capacity, is at risk of substantial physical, financial or other harm unless action is taken and cannot adequately act in the client's own interest, the lawyer may take reasonably necessary protective action, including consulting with individuals or entities that have the ability to take action to protect the client and, in appropriate cases, seeking the appointment of a guardian ad litem, conservator or guardian.

(c) Information relating to the representation of a client with diminished capacity is protected by Rule 1.6. When taking protective action pursuant to paragraph (b), the lawyer is impliedly authorized under Rule 1.6(a) to reveal information about the client, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the client's interests.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"

"Information relating to the representation of a client"

"Reasonably"

"Reasonably believes"

"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (b) is similar to DR 7-101(C), but offers more guidance as to the circumstances when a lawyer can take protective action in regard to a client. Paragraph (a) and (c) have no counterparts in the Oregon Code, but provide helpful guidance for lawyers representing clients with diminished capacity.

Rule 1.15-1 Safekeeping Property

(a) A lawyer shall hold property of clients or third persons that is in a lawyer's possession separate from the lawyer's own property. Funds, including advances for costs and expenses and escrow and other funds held for another, shall be kept in a separate "Lawyer Trust Account" maintained in the jurisdiction where the lawyer's office is situated. Each lawyer trust account shall be an interest bearing account in a financial institution selected by the lawyer or law firm in the exercise of reasonable care. Lawyer trust accounts shall conform to the rules in the jurisdictions in which the accounts are maintained. Other property shall be identified as such and appropriately safeguarded. Complete records of such account funds and other property shall be kept by the lawyer and shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the representation.

(b) A lawyer may deposit the lawyer's own funds in a lawyer trust account for the sole purposes of paying bank service charges or meeting minimum balance requirements on that account, but only in amounts necessary for those purposes.

(c) A lawyer shall deposit into a lawyer trust account legal fees and expenses that have been paid in advance, to be withdrawn by the lawyer only as fees are earned or expenses incurred, unless the fee complies with Rule 1.5(c)(4).

(d) Upon receiving funds or other property in which a client or third person has an interest, a lawyer shall promptly notify the client or third person. Except as stated in this rule or otherwise permitted by law or by agreement with the client, a lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person any funds or other property that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full accounting regarding such property.

(e) When in the course of representation a lawyer is in possession of property in which two or more persons (one of whom may be the lawyer) claim interests, the property shall be kept separate by the lawyer until the dispute is resolved. The lawyer shall promptly distribute all portions of the property as to which the interests are not in dispute.

(f) Every lawyer who receives notification from a financial institution that any instrument presented against his or her lawyer trust account was presented against insufficient funds, whether or not the instrument was honored, shall promptly notify Disciplinary Counsel in writing. The lawyer shall include a full explanation of the cause of the overdraft.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 11/30/05: Paragraph (a) amended to eliminate permission to have trust account "elsewhere with the consent of the client" and to require accounts to conform to jurisdiction in which located. Paragraph (b) amended to allow deposit of lawyer funds to meet minimum balance requirements.

Amended 12/01/10: Paragraph (c) amended to create an exception for fees "earned on receipt" within the meaning of Rule 1.5(c)(3).

Amended 01/01/25: Paragraph (f) added to include reporting requirement from former RPC 1.15-2(l).

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph (c) amended to remove references to "nonrefundable" and "earned on receipt" and refer to new paragraph at RPC 1.5(c)(4).

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Law firm"
"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraphs (a)-(e) contain all of the elements of DR 9-101(A)-(C) and (D)(1), albeit in slightly different order. The rule is broader than DR 9-101 in that it also applies to the property of prospective clients and third persons received by a lawyer. Paragraph (c) makes it clear that fees and costs paid in advance must be held in trust until earned unless the fee is denominated "earned on receipt" and complies with the requirements of Rule 1.5(c)(3).

RULE 1.15-2 [RESERVED]

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 11/30/05: Paragraph (a) amended to clarify scope of rule. Paragraph (h) amended to allow remittance of interest to OLF in accordance with bank's standard accounting practice, and to report either the average daily collected account balance or the balance on which interest was otherwise computed. Paragraph (j) amended to require notice to OLF of cancellation of IOLTA agreement. Paragraph (m) and (n) added.

Amended 01/01/12: Requirement for annual certification, formerly paragraph (m), deleted and obligation moved to ORS Chapter 9.

Amended 01/01/14: Paragraph (f) revised to clarify the amount of interest that is to be refunded if client funds are mistakenly placed in an IOLTA account.

Repealed 01/01/25: The Rule has been replaced by Rule of Licensure Title 6.

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is a significant revision of the IOLTA provisions of DR 9-101 and the trust account overdraft notification provisions of DR 9-102. The original changes were prompted by the US Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Washington Legal Foundation* that clients are entitled to "net interest" that can be earned on funds held in trust. Additional changes were made to conform the rule to banking practice and to clarify the requirement for annual certification.

RULE 1.16 DECLINING OR TERMINATING REPRESENTATION

(a) A lawyer shall reasonably inquire into and assess the facts and circumstances of each representation to determine whether the lawyer may accept or continue the representation. Except as stated in paragraph (c), a lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if:

- (1)** the representation will result in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;
- (2)** the lawyer's physical or mental condition materially impairs the lawyer's ability to represent the client;
- (3)** the lawyer is discharged; or
- (4)** the client or prospective client seeks to use or persists in using the lawyer's services to commit or further a crime or fraud, despite the lawyer's discussion pursuant to Rule 1.2(c) regarding the limitations on the lawyer assisting with the proposed conduct.

(b) Except as stated in paragraph (c), a lawyer may withdraw from representing a client if:

- (1)** withdrawal can be accomplished without material adverse effect on the interests of the client;
- (2)** the client persists in a course of action involving the lawyer's services that the lawyer reasonably believes is criminal or fraudulent;
- (3)** the client has used the lawyer's services to perpetrate a crime or fraud;

(4) the client insists upon taking action that the lawyer considers repugnant or with which the lawyer has a fundamental disagreement;

(5) the client fails substantially to fulfill an obligation to the lawyer regarding the lawyer's services and has been given reasonable warning that the lawyer will withdraw unless the obligation is fulfilled;

(6) the representation will result in an unreasonable financial burden on the lawyer or has been rendered unreasonably difficult by the client; or

(7) other good cause for withdrawal exists.

(c) A lawyer must comply with applicable law requiring notice to or permission of a tribunal when terminating representation. When ordered to do so by a tribunal, a lawyer shall continue representation notwithstanding good cause for terminating the representation.

(d) Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payment of fee or expense that has not been earned or incurred. The lawyer may retain papers, personal property and money of the client to the extent permitted by other law.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/25: Paragraph (a) has been amended to include the duties of the attorney to inquire and assess the facts and circumstances of a representation, and withdraw if such an inquiry reveals the use of their services to commit or further a crime or fraud.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

- "Believes"
- "Fraud"
- "Fraudulent"
- "Reasonable"
- "Reasonably"
- "Reasonably believes"
- "Substantial"
- "Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is essentially the same as DR 2-110, except that it specifically applies to declining a representation as well as withdrawing from representation. Paragraph (a) parallels the circumstances in which DR 2-110(B) mandates withdrawal, and also includes when the client

is acting “merely for the purpose of harassing or maliciously injuring” another person, which is prohibited in DR 2-109(A)(1) and DR 7-102(A)(1).

Paragraph (b) is similar to DR 2-110(C) regarding permissive withdrawal. It allows withdrawal for any reason if it can be accomplished without “material adverse effect” on the client. Withdrawal is also allowed if the lawyer considers the client’s conduct repugnant or if the lawyer fundamentally disagrees with it.

Paragraph (c) is like DR 2-110(A)(1) in requiring compliance with applicable law requiring notice or permission from the tribunal; it also clarifies the lawyer’s obligations if permission is denied.

Paragraph (d) incorporates DR 2-110(A)(2) and (3). The final sentence has no counterpart in the Oregon Code; it recognizes the right of a lawyer to retain client papers and other property to the extent permitted by other law. The “other law” includes statutory lien rights as well as court decisions determining lawyer ownership of certain papers created during a representation. A lawyer’s right under other law to retain papers and other property remains subject to other obligations, such as the lawyer’s general fiduciary duty to avoid prejudicing a former client, which might supersede the right to claim a lien.

RULE 1.17 SALE OF LAW PRACTICE

(a) A lawyer, LP, or law firm may sell or purchase all or part of a law practice, including goodwill, in accordance with this rule or the equivalent LP Rule.

(b) The selling lawyer, LP, or the selling lawyer's or LP's legal representative, in the case of a deceased or disabled lawyer or LP, shall provide written notice of the proposed sale to each current client whose legal work is subject to transfer, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the client's last known address. The notice shall include the following information:

- (1) that a sale is proposed;**
- (2) the identity of the purchasing lawyer or law firm, including the office address(es), and a brief description of the size and nature of the purchasing lawyer's or law firm's practice;**
- (3) that the client may object to the transfer of its legal work, may take possession of any client files and property, and may retain counsel other than the purchasing lawyer or law firm;**
- (4) that the client's legal work will be transferred to the purchasing lawyer or law firm, who will then take over the representation and act on the client's behalf, if the client does not object to the transfer within forty-five (45) days after the date the notice was mailed; and**

(5) whether the selling lawyer or LP will withdraw from the representation not less than forty-five (45) days after the date the notice was mailed, whether or not the client consents to the transfer of its legal work.

(c) The notice may describe the purchasing lawyer or law firm's qualifications, including the selling lawyer's or LP's opinion of the purchasing lawyer or law firm's suitability and competence to assume representation of the client, but only if the selling lawyer or LP has made a reasonable effort to arrive at an informed opinion.

(d) If certified mail is not effective to give the client notice, the selling lawyer or LP shall take such steps as may be reasonable under the circumstances to give the client actual notice of the proposed sale and the other information required in subsection (b) or the equivalent LP Rule.

(e) A client's consent to the transfer of its legal work to the purchasing lawyer or law firm will be presumed if no objection is received within forty-five (45) days after the date the notice was mailed.

(f) If substitution of counsel is required by the rules of a tribunal in which a matter is pending, the selling lawyer or LP shall assure that substitution of counsel is made.

(g) The fees charged clients shall not be increased by reason of the sale except upon agreement of the client.

(h) The sale of a law practice may be conditioned on the selling lawyer or LP ceasing to engage in the private practice of law or some particular area of practice for a reasonable period within the geographic area in which the practice has been conducted.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraphs (a), (b), (b)(5), (c), (d), (f), and (h) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

- “Known”*
- “Law firm”*
- “LP”*
- “LP Rule”*
- “Matter”*
- “Reasonable”*
- “Tribunal”*
- “Written”*

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule continues DR 2-111 which, when adopted in 1995, was derived in large part from Model Rule 1.17.

RULE 1.18 DUTIES TO PROSPECTIVE CLIENT

(a) A person who consults with a lawyer about the possibility of forming a client-lawyer relationship with respect to a matter is a prospective client.

(b) Even when no client-lawyer relationship ensues, a lawyer who has learned information from a prospective client shall not use or reveal that information, except as Rule 1.9 would permit with respect to information of a former client.

(c) A lawyer subject to paragraph (b) shall not represent a client with interests materially adverse to those of a prospective client in the same or a substantially related matter if the lawyer received information from the prospective client that could be significantly harmful to that person in the matter, except as provided in paragraph (d). If a lawyer is disqualified from representation under this paragraph, no lawyer in a firm with which that lawyer is associated may knowingly undertake or continue representation in such a matter, except as provided in paragraph (d).

(d) When the lawyer has received disqualifying information as defined in paragraph (c), representation is permissible if:

(1) both the affected client and the prospective client have given informed consent, confirmed in writing, or:

(2) the lawyer who received the information took reasonable measures to avoid exposure to more disqualifying information than was reasonably necessary to determine whether to represent the prospective client; and

(i) the disqualified lawyer is timely screened from any participation in the matter; and

(ii) written notice is promptly given to the prospective client

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/11/09: Paragraph (d) amended to conform to ABA Model Rule 1.18 except for prohibition against disqualified lawyer being apportioned a part of the fee.

Amended 01/01/14: Paragraphs (a) and (b) amended slightly to conform to changes in the Model Rule.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Confirmed in writing"
"Informed consent"
"Firm"
"Knowingly"
"Matter"
"Screened"
"Substantial"
"Written"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code. It is consistent with the rule of lawyer-client privilege that defines a client to include a person "who consults a lawyer with a view to obtaining professional legal services." OEC 503(1)(a). The rule also codifies a significant body of case law and other authority that has interpreted the duty of confidentiality to apply to prospective clients.

COUNSELOR

RULE 2.1 ADVISOR

In representing a client, a lawyer shall exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice. In rendering advice, a lawyer may refer not only to law but to other considerations such as moral, economic, social and political factors, that may be relevant to the client's situation.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code, although it codifies the concept of exercising independent judgment that is fundamental to the role of the lawyer and which is mentioned specifically in DRs 2-103, 5-101, 5-104, 5-108 and 7-101.

RULE 2.2 [RESERVED]

RULE 2.3 EVALUATION FOR USE BY THIRD PERSONS

(a) A lawyer may provide an evaluation of a matter affecting a client for the use of someone other than the client if the lawyer reasonably believes that making the evaluation is compatible with other aspects of the lawyer's relationship with the client.

(b) When the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the evaluation is likely to affect the client's interests materially and adversely, the lawyer shall not provide the evaluation unless the client gives informed consent.

(c) Except as disclosure is authorized in connection with a report of an evaluation, information relating to the evaluation is otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"
"Informed consent"
"Knows"
"Matter"
"Reasonably believes"
"Reasonably should know"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is similar to DR 7-101(D), which was adopted in 1997 based on *former ABA Model Rule 2.3*. Paragraph (b) is new in 2002 to require client consent only when the evaluation poses a risk of material and adverse affect on the client. Under paragraph (a), when there is no such risk, the lawyer needs only to determine that the

evaluation is compatible with other aspects of the relationship.

RULE 2.4 LAWYER SERVING AS MEDIATOR

(a) A lawyer serving as a mediator:

- (1) shall not act as a lawyer for any party against another party in the matter in mediation or in any related proceeding; and**
- (2) must clearly inform the parties of and obtain the parties' consent to the lawyer's role as mediator.**

(b) A lawyer serving as a mediator:

- (1) may prepare documents that memorialize and implement the agreement reached in mediation;**
- (2) shall recommend that each party seek independent legal advice before executing the documents; and**
- (3) with the consent of all parties, may record or may file the documents in court.**

(c) The requirements of Rule 2.4(a)(2) and (b)(2) shall not apply to mediation programs established by operation of law or court order.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: Original paragraph (c) relating to firm representation deleted to eliminate conflict with RPC 1.12.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Matter"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule retains much of *former DR 5-106*.

ADVOCATE

RULE 3.1 MERITORIOUS CLAIMS AND CONTENTIONS

In representing a client or the lawyer's own interests, a lawyer shall not knowingly bring or defend a proceeding, assert a position therein, delay a trial or take other action on behalf of a client, unless there is a basis in law and fact for doing so that is not frivolous, which includes a good faith argument for an extension, modification or reversal of existing law, except that a lawyer for the defendant in a criminal proceeding, or the respondent in a proceeding that could result in incarceration may, nevertheless so defend the proceeding as to require that every element of the case be established.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (a) amended to make applicable to a lawyer acting in the lawyer's own interests.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knowingly"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule retains the essence of DR 2-109(A)(2) and DR 7-102(A)(2), although neither Oregon rule expressly confirms the right of a criminal defense lawyer to defend in a manner that requires establishment of every element of the case.

RULE 3.2 [RESERVED]

RULE 3.3 CANDOR TOWARD THE TRIBUNAL

(a) A lawyer shall not knowingly:

- (1) make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal or fail to correct a false statement of material fact or law previously made to the tribunal by the lawyer;**
- (2) fail to disclose to the tribunal legal authority in the controlling jurisdiction known to the lawyer to be directly adverse to the position of the client and not disclosed by opposing counsel or opposing LP;**
- (3) offer evidence that the lawyer knows to be false. If a lawyer, the lawyer's client, or a witness called by the lawyer, has offered material evidence and the lawyer comes to know of its falsity, the lawyer shall take reasonable remedial measures, including, if permitted, disclosure to the tribunal. A lawyer may refuse to offer evidence, other than the testimony of a defendant in a criminal matter, that the lawyer reasonably believes is false;**
- (4) conceal or fail to disclose to a tribunal that which the lawyer is required by law to reveal; or**
- (5) engage in other illegal conduct or conduct contrary to these Rules.**

(b) A lawyer who represents a client in an adjudicative proceeding and who knows that a person intends to engage, is engaging or has engaged in criminal or fraudulent conduct related to the proceeding shall take reasonable remedial measures, including, if permitted, disclosure to the tribunal.

(c) The duties stated in paragraphs (a) and (b) continue to the conclusion of the proceeding, but in no event require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

(d) In an ex parte proceeding, a lawyer shall inform the tribunal of all material facts known to the lawyer that

will enable the tribunal to make an informed decision, whether or not the facts are adverse.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/10: Paragraphs (a)(3) and (b) amended to substitute "if permitted" for "if necessary;" paragraph (c) amended to make it clear that remedial measures do not require disclosure of information protected by Rule 1.6.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph(a)(2) amended to add reference to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"

"Fraudulent"

"Knowingly"

"Known"

"Knows"

"LP"

"Matter"

"Reasonable"

"Reasonably believes"

"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a)(1) is similar to DR 7-102(A)(5), but also requires correction of a previously made statement that turns out to be false.

Paragraph (a)(2) is the same as DR 7-106(B)(1).

Paragraph (a)(3) combines the prohibition in DR 7-102(A)(4) against presenting perjured testimony or false evidence with the remedial measures required in DR 7-102(B). The rule clarifies that only materially false evidence requires remedial action. While the rule allows a criminal defense lawyer to refuse to offer evidence the lawyer reasonably believes is false, it recognizes that the lawyer must allow a criminal defendant to testify.

Paragraphs (a)(4) and (5) are the same as DR 7-102(A)(3) and (8), respectively.

Paragraph (b) is similar to and consistent with the interpretations of DR 7-102(B)(1).

Paragraph (c) continues the duty of candor to the end of the proceeding, but, notwithstanding the language in paragraphs (a)(3) and (b), does not require disclosure of confidential client information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

Paragraph (d) has no equivalent in the Oregon Code.

RULE 3.4 FAIRNESS TO OPPOSING PARTY AND COUNSEL

A lawyer shall not:

- (a) knowingly and unlawfully obstruct another party's access to evidence or unlawfully alter, destroy or conceal a document or other material having potential evidentiary value. A lawyer shall not counsel or assist another person to do any such act;
- (b) falsify evidence; counsel or assist a witness to testify falsely; offer an inducement to a witness that is prohibited by law; or pay, offer to pay, or acquiesce in payment of compensation to a witness contingent upon the content of the witness's testimony or the outcome of the case; except that a lawyer may advance, guarantee or acquiesce in the payment of:
 - (1) expenses reasonably incurred by a witness in attending or testifying;
 - (2) reasonable compensation to a witness for the witness's loss of time in attending or testifying; or
 - (3) a reasonable fee for the professional services of an expert witness.
- (c) knowingly disobey an obligation under the rules of a tribunal, except for an open refusal based on an assertion that no valid obligation exists;
- (d) in pretrial procedure, knowingly make a frivolous discovery request or fail to make reasonably diligent effort to comply with a legally proper discovery request by an opposing party;
- (e) in trial, allude to any matter that the lawyer does not reasonably believe is relevant or that will not be supported by admissible evidence, assert personal knowledge of facts in issue except when testifying as a witness, or state a personal opinion as to the justness of a cause, the credibility of a witness, the culpability of a civil litigant or the guilt or innocence of an accused;
- (f) advise or cause a person to secrete himself or herself or to leave the jurisdiction of a tribunal for purposes of making the person unavailable as a witness therein; or
- (g) threaten to present criminal charges to obtain an advantage in a civil matter unless the lawyer reasonably believes the charge to be true and if the purpose of the lawyer is to compel or induce the person threatened to take reasonable action to make good the wrong which is the subject of the charge.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"
"Knowingly"
"Matter"

"Reasonable"
"Reasonably"
"Reasonably believes"
"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is similar to DR 7-109(A).

Paragraph (b) includes the rules regarding witness contact from DR 7-109, and also the prohibition against falsifying evidence that is found in DR 7-102(A)(6).

Paragraph (c) is generally equivalent to DR 7-106(C)(7).

Paragraph (d) has no equivalent in the Oregon Code.

Paragraph (e) is the same as DR 7-106(C)(1), (3) and (4).

Paragraph (f) retains the language of DR 7-109(B).

Paragraph (g) retains DR 7-105.

RULE 3.5 IMPARTIALITY AND DECORUM OF THE TRIBUNAL

A lawyer shall not:

- (a) seek to influence a judge, juror, prospective juror or other official by means prohibited by law;
- (b) communicate *ex parte* on the merits of a cause with such a person during the proceeding unless authorized to do so by law or court order;
- (c) communicate with a juror or prospective juror after discharge of the jury if:
 - (1) the communication is prohibited by law or court order;
 - (2) the juror has made known to the lawyer a desire not to communicate; or
 - (3) the communication involves misrepresentation, coercion, duress or harassment;
- (d) engage in conduct intended to disrupt a tribunal; or
- (e) fail to reveal promptly to the court improper conduct by a venireman or a juror, or by another toward a venireman or a juror or a member of their families, of which the lawyer has knowledge.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (b) amended to add "on the merits of the cause."

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Known"
"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

Paragraph (b) replaces DR 7-110, making ex parte contact subject only to law and court order, without additional notice requirements.

Paragraph (c) is similar to DR 7-108(A)-(F).

Paragraph (d) is similar to DR 7-106(C)(6).

Paragraph (e) retains the DR 7-108(G).

RULE 3.6 TRIAL PUBLICITY

(a) A lawyer who is participating or has participated in the investigation or litigation of a matter shall not make an extrajudicial statement that the lawyer knows or reasonably should know will be disseminated by means of public communication and will have a substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing an adjudicative proceeding in the matter.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a lawyer may state:

(1) the claim, offense or defense involved and, except when prohibited by law, the identity of the persons involved;

(2) information contained in a public record;

(3) that an investigation of a matter is in progress;

(4) the scheduling or result of any step in litigation;

(5) a request for assistance in obtaining evidence and information necessary thereto;

(6) a warning of danger concerning the behavior of a person involved, when there is reason to believe that there exists the likelihood of substantial harm to an individual or to the public interest; and

(7) in a criminal case, in addition to subparagraphs (1) through (6):

(i) the identity, residence, occupation and family status of the accused;

(ii) if the accused has not been apprehended, information necessary to aid in apprehension of that person;

(iii) the fact, time and place of arrest; and

(iv) the identity of investigating and arresting officers or agencies and the length of the investigation.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a lawyer may:

(1) reply to charges of misconduct publicly made against the lawyer; or

(2) participate in the proceedings of legislative, administrative or other investigative bodies.

(d) No lawyer associated in a firm or government agency with a lawyer or LP subject to paragraph (a) or

the equivalent LP Rule shall make a statement prohibited by paragraph (a).

(e) A lawyer shall exercise reasonable care to prevent the lawyer's employees from making an extrajudicial statement that the lawyer would be prohibited from making under this rule.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph (d) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Firm"

"Knows"

"LP"

"LP Rule"

"Matter"

"Reasonable"

"Reasonably should know"

"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) replaces DR 7-107(A).

Paragraph (b) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

Paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) retain the exceptions in DR 7-107(B) and (C).

Paragraph (d) applies the limitation of the rule to other members in the subject lawyer's firm or government agency.

Paragraph (e) retains the requirement of DR 7-107(C).

RULE 3.7 LAWYER AS WITNESS

(a) A lawyer shall not act as an advocate at a trial in which the lawyer is likely to be a witness on behalf of the lawyer's client unless:

(1) the testimony relates to an uncontested issue;

(2) the testimony relates to the nature and value of legal services rendered in the case;

(3) disqualification of the lawyer would work a substantial hardship on the client; or

(4) the lawyer is appearing pro se.

(b) A lawyer may act as an advocate in a trial in which another lawyer in the lawyer's firm is likely to be called as a witness on behalf of the lawyer's client.

(c) If, after undertaking employment in contemplated or pending litigation, a lawyer learns or it is obvious that the lawyer or a member of the lawyer's firm may be called as a witness other than on behalf of the lawyer's

client, the lawyer may continue the representation until it is apparent that the lawyer's or firm member's testimony is or may be prejudicial to the lawyer's client.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Firm"

"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule retains DR 5-102 in its entirety.

RULE 3.8 SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PROSECUTOR

The prosecutor in a criminal case shall:

(a) refrain from prosecuting a charge that the prosecutor knows is not supported by probable cause; and

(b) make timely disclosure to the defense of all evidence or information known to the prosecutor that tends to negate the guilt of the accused or mitigates the offense, and, in connection with sentencing, disclose to the defense and to the tribunal all unprivileged mitigating information known to the prosecutor, except when the prosecutor is relieved of this responsibility by a protective order of the tribunal.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Known"

"Knows"

"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is essentially the same as DR 7-103(A).

Paragraph (d) is essentially the same as DR 7-103(B), with the addition of an exception for protective orders.

RULE 3.9 ADVOCATE IN NONADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDINGS

A lawyer representing a client before a legislative body or administrative agency in a nonadjudicative proceeding shall disclose that the appearance is in a representative capacity and shall conform to the provisions of Rule 3.3(a) through (c), 3.4(a) through (c), and 3.5.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

RULE 4.1 TRUTHFULNESS IN STATEMENTS TO OTHERS

In the course of representing a client a lawyer shall not knowingly:

(a) make a false statement of material fact or law to a third person; or

(b) fail to disclose a material fact when disclosure is necessary to avoid assisting in an illegal or fraudulent act by a client, unless disclosure is prohibited by Rule 1.6.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Fraudulent"

"Knowingly"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no direct counterpart in Oregon, but it expresses prohibitions found in DR 1-102(A)(3), DR 7-102(A)(5) and DR 1-102(A)(7).

RULE 4.2 COMMUNICATION WITH PERSON REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL

In representing a client or the lawyer's own interests, a lawyer shall not communicate or cause another to communicate on the subject of the representation with a person the lawyer knows to be represented by a lawyer or LP on that subject unless:

(a) the lawyer has the prior consent of a lawyer or LP representing such other person;

(b) the lawyer is authorized by law or by court order to do so; or

(c) a written agreement requires a written notice or demand to be sent to such other person, in which case a copy of such notice or demand shall also be sent to such other person's lawyer or LP.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Text of rule and paragraphs (a) and (c) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

"LP"

"Written"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule retains the language of DR 7-104(A), except that the phrase "or on directly related subjects" has been deleted. The application of the rule to a lawyer acting in

the lawyer's own interests has been moved to the beginning of the rule.

RULE 4.3 DEALING WITH UNREPRESENTED PERSONS

In dealing on behalf of a client or the lawyer's own interests with a person who is not represented by counsel or an LP, a lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is disinterested. When the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the unrepresented person misunderstands the lawyer's role in the matter, the lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to correct the misunderstanding. The lawyer shall not give legal advice to an unrepresented person, other than the advice to secure counsel, if the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the interests of such a person are or have a reasonable possibility of being in conflict with the interests of the client or the lawyer's own interests.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Added references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"
"Matter"
"Reasonable"
"Reasonably should know"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 7-104(B). It is expanded to parallel Rule 4.2 by applying to situations in which the lawyer is representing the lawyer's own interests. The rule is broader than DR 7-104(B) in that it specifically prohibits a lawyer from stating or implying that the lawyer is disinterested. It also imposes an affirmative requirement on the lawyer to correct any misunderstanding an unrepresented person may have about the lawyer's role. The rule continues the prohibition against giving legal advice to an unrepresented person.

RULE 4.4 RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THIRD PERSONS; INADVERTENTLY SENT DOCUMENTS

(a) In representing a client or the lawyer's own interests, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, harass or burden a third person, or knowingly use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.

(b) A lawyer who receives a document or electronically stored information relating to the representation of the lawyer's client and knows or reasonably should know that the document or electronically stored information was inadvertently sent shall promptly notify the sender.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (a) amended to make applicable to a lawyer acting in the lawyer's own interests.

Amended 01/01/14: Paragraph (b) amended to expand scope to electronically stored information.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knowingly"
"Knows"
"Reasonably should know"
"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule had no equivalent in the Oregon Code, although paragraph (a) incorporates aspects of DR 7-102(A)(1).

LAW FIRMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

RULE 5.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERS, MANAGERS, AND SUPERVISORY LAWYERS

A lawyer shall be responsible for another lawyer's or LP's violation of these Rules of Professional Conduct or the equivalent LP Rules if:

(a) the lawyer orders or, with knowledge of the specific conduct, ratifies the conduct involved; or

(b) the lawyer is a partner or has comparable managerial authority in the law firm in which the other lawyer practices, or has direct supervisory authority over the other lawyer or LP, and knows of the conduct at a time when its consequences can be avoided or mitigated but fails to take reasonable remedial action.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Text of rule and paragraph (b) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knowledge"
"Knows"
"Law Firm"
"LP"
"LP Rule"
"Partner"
"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is essentially the same as DR 1-102(B) although it specifically applies to partners or others with

comparable managerial authority, as well as lawyers with supervisory authority.

RULE 5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SUBORDINATE LAWYER

(a) A lawyer is bound by the Rules of Professional Conduct notwithstanding that the lawyer acted at the direction of another person.

(b) A subordinate lawyer does not violate the Rules of Professional Conduct if that lawyer acts in accordance with a supervisory lawyer's reasonable resolution of an arguable question of professional duty.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is identical to DR 1-102(C).

Paragraph (b) has no equivalent in the Oregon Code.

RULE 5.3 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING NONLAWYER ASSISTANCE

With respect to a nonlawyer employed or retained, supervised or directed by a lawyer:

(a) a lawyer having direct supervisory authority over the nonlawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer; and

(b) except as provided by Rule 8.4(b), a lawyer shall be responsible for conduct of such a person that would be a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct if engaged in by a lawyer if:

(1) the lawyer orders or, with the knowledge of the specific conduct, ratifies the conduct involved; or

(2) the lawyer is a partner or has comparable managerial authority in the law firm in which the person is employed, or has direct supervisory authority over the person, and knows of the conduct at a time when its consequences can be avoided or mitigated but fails to take reasonable remedial action.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: Title changed from "Assistants" to "Assistance" in recognition of the broad range of nonlawyer services that can be utilized in rendering legal services.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knowledge"

"Knows"
"Law firm"
"Partner"
"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code. Paragraph (a) is somewhat similar to the requirement in DR 4-101(D), but broader because not limited to disclosure of confidential client information.

Paragraph (b) applies the requirements of DR 1-102(B) to nonlawyer personnel. An exception by cross-reference to Rule 8.4(b) is included to avoid conflict with the rule that was formerly DR 1-102(D).

RULE 5.4 PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF A LAWYER

(a) A lawyer or law firm shall not share legal fees with a nonlawyer, except that:

(1) an agreement by a lawyer with the lawyer's firm or firm members may provide for the payment of money, over a reasonable period of time after the lawyer's death, to the lawyer's estate or to one or more specified persons.

(2) a lawyer who purchases the practice of a deceased, disabled, or disappeared lawyer may, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1.17, pay to the estate or other representative of that lawyer the agreed-upon purchase price.

(3) a lawyer or law firm may include nonlawyer employees in a compensation or retirement plan, even though the plan is based in whole or in part on a profit-sharing arrangement.

(4) a lawyer may share legal fees awarded by a tribunal with a nonprofit organization that employed, retained or recommended employment of the lawyer in the matter; and

(5) a lawyer may pay the usual charges of a bar-operated not-for-profit lawyer referral service, including fees calculated as a percentage of legal fees received by the lawyer from a referral.

(b) A lawyer shall not form a partnership with a nonlawyer if any of the activities of the partnership consist of the practice of law.

(c) A lawyer shall not permit a person who recommends, employs, or pays the lawyer to render legal services for another to direct or regulate the lawyer's professional judgment in rendering such legal services.

(d) A lawyer shall not practice with or in the form of a professional corporation or association authorized to practice law for a profit, if:

- (1) a nonlawyer owns any interest therein, except that a fiduciary representative of the estate of a lawyer may hold the stock or interest of the lawyer for a reasonable time during administration;
- (2) a nonlawyer is a corporate director or officer thereof or occupies the position of similar responsibility in any form of association other than a corporation, except as authorized by law; or
- (3) a nonlawyer has the right to direct or control the professional judgment of a lawyer.

(e) A lawyer shall not refer a client to a nonlawyer with the understanding that the lawyer will receive a fee, commission or anything of value in exchange for the referral, but a lawyer may accept gifts in the ordinary course of social or business hospitality.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/13: Paragraph (a)(5) added.

Amended 02/01/22: Phrase "court-awarded" deleted from paragraph (a)(4). Phrase "awarded by a tribunal" added to paragraph (a)(4).

Amended 03/01/22: Phrase "sponsored or" deleted from paragraph (a)(5).

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Firm"
"Law firm"
"Matter"
"Partner"
"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a)(1) is the same as DR 3-102(A)(1). Paragraph (a)(2) is similar to DR 3-102(A)(2), except that it addresses the purchase of a deceased, disabled or departed lawyer's practice and payment of an agreed price, rather than only authorizing reasonable compensation for services rendered by a deceased lawyer. Paragraph (a)(3) is identical to DR 3-102(A)(3). Paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(5) have no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

Paragraph (b) is identical to DR 3-103.

Paragraph (c) is identical to DR 5-108(B).

Paragraph (d) is essentially identical to DR 5-108(D).

Paragraph (e) is the same as DR 2-105, approved by the Supreme Court in April 2003.

RULE 5.5 UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW; MULTIJURISDICTIONAL PRACTICE

- (a) A lawyer shall not practice law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction, or assist another in doing so.
- (b) A lawyer who is not admitted to practice in this jurisdiction shall not:
 - (1) except as authorized by these Rules or other law, establish an office or other systematic and continuous presence in this jurisdiction for the practice of law; or
 - (2) hold out to the public or otherwise represent that the lawyer is admitted to practice law in this jurisdiction.
- (c) A lawyer admitted in another jurisdiction, and not disbarred or suspended from practice in any jurisdiction, may provide legal services on a temporary basis in this jurisdiction that:
 - (1) are undertaken in association with a lawyer who is admitted to practice in this jurisdiction and who actively participates in the matter;
 - (2) are in or reasonably related to a pending or potential proceeding before a tribunal in this or another jurisdiction, if the lawyer, or a person the lawyer is assisting, is authorized by law or order to appear in such proceeding or reasonably expects to be so authorized;
 - (3) are in or reasonably related to a pending or potential arbitration, mediation, or other alternate dispute resolution proceeding in this or another jurisdiction, if the services arise out of or are reasonably related to the lawyer's practice in a jurisdiction in which the lawyer is admitted to practice and are not services for which the forum requires pro hac vice admission;
 - (4) are not within paragraphs (c)(2) or (c)(3) and arise out of or are reasonably related to the lawyer's practice in a jurisdiction in which the lawyer is admitted to practice; or
 - (5) are provided to the lawyer's employer or its organizational affiliates and are not services for which the forum requires pro hac vice admission.
- (d) A lawyer admitted in another jurisdiction, and not disbarred or suspended from practice in any jurisdiction, may provide legal services in this jurisdiction that are services that the lawyer is authorized to provide by federal law or other law of this jurisdiction.
- (e) A lawyer who provides legal services in connection with a pending or potential arbitration proceeding to be

held in his jurisdiction under paragraph (c)(3) of this rule must, upon engagement by the client, certify to the Oregon State Bar that:

- (1) the lawyer is in good standing in every jurisdiction in which the lawyer is admitted to practice; and
- (2) unless the lawyer is in-house counsel or an employee of a government client in the matter, that the lawyer
 - (i) carries professional liability insurance substantially equivalent to that required of Oregon lawyers, or
 - (ii) has notified the lawyer's client in writing that the lawyer does not have such insurance and that Oregon law requires Oregon lawyers to have such insurance.

The certificate must be accompanied by the administrative fee for the appearance established by the Oregon State Bar and proof of service on the arbitrator and other parties to the proceeding.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/12: Paragraph (e) added.

Amended 02/19/15: Phrase "United States" deleted from paragraphs (c) and (d), to allow foreign-licensed lawyers to engage in temporary practice as provided in the rule.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Matter"
"Reasonably"
"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) contains the same prohibitions as DR 3-101(A) and (B).

Paragraph (b), (c), (d) and (e) have no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

RULE 5.6 RESTRICTIONS ON RIGHT TO PRACTICE

A lawyer shall not participate in offering or making:

- (a) a partnership, shareholders, operating, employment, or other similar type of agreement that restricts the right of a lawyer or LP to practice after termination of the relationship, except an agreement concerning benefits upon retirement; or
- (b) an agreement in which a direct or indirect restriction on the lawyer's or LP's right to practice is part of the settlement of a client controversy.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraphs (a) and (b) amended to add references to LPs.

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is similar to DR 2-108(A), but in addition to partnership or employment agreements, includes shareholders and operating "or other similar type of agreements," in recognition of the fact that lawyers associate together in organizations other than traditional law firm partnerships.

Paragraph (b) is similar to DR 2-108(B).

RULE 5.7 [RESERVED]

PUBLIC SERVICE

RULE 6.1 [RESERVED]

RULE 6.2 [RESERVED]

RULE 6.3 MEMBERSHIP IN LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION

A lawyer may serve as a director, officer or member of a legal services organization, apart from the law firm in which the lawyer practices, notwithstanding that the organization serves persons having interests adverse to a client of the lawyer. The lawyer shall not knowingly participate in a decision or action of the organization:

- (a) if participating in the decision or action would be incompatible with the lawyer's obligations to a client under Rule 1.7; or
- (b) where the decision or action could have a material adverse effect on the representation of a client of the organization whose interests are adverse to a client of the lawyer.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knowingly"
"Law firm"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is similar to DR 5-108(C)(10 and (2).

RULE 6.4 LAW REFORM ACTIVITIES AFFECTING CLIENT INTERESTS

A lawyer may serve as a director, officer or member of an organization involved in reform of the law or its administration, notwithstanding that the reform may affect the interest of a client of the lawyer. When the lawyer knows that the interest of a client may be materially benefited by a decision in which the lawyer

participates, the lawyer shall disclose that fact but need not identify the client.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is similar to DR 5-108(C)(3).

RULE 6.5 NONPROFIT AND COURT-ANNEXED LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

(a) A lawyer who, under the auspices of a program sponsored by a nonprofit organization or court, provides short-term limited legal services to a client without expectation by either the lawyer or the client that the lawyer will provide continuing representation in the matter:

- (1) is subject to Rule 1.7 and 1.9(a) only if the lawyer knows that the representation of the client involves a conflict of interest; and**
- (2) is subject to Rule 1.10 only if the lawyer or LP knows that another lawyer associated with the lawyer in a law firm is disqualified by Rule 1.7, 1.9(a), or the equivalent LP Rule with respect to the matter.**

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2), Rule 1.10 is inapplicable to a representation governed by this Rule.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph (a)(2) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

"Law firm"

"LP"

"LP Rule"

"Matter"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no equivalent in the Oregon Code. It was adopted by the ABA in 2002 to address concerns that strict application of conflict of interest rules might be deterring lawyers from volunteering in programs that provide short-term limited legal services to clients under the auspices of a non-profit or court-annexed program.

INFORMATION ABOUT LEGAL SERVICES

RULE 7.1 COMMUNICATION CONCERNING A LAWYER'S SERVICES

A lawyer shall not make a false or misleading communication about the lawyer or the lawyer's services. A communication is false or misleading if it contains a material misrepresentation of fact or law, or omits a fact necessary to make the statement considered as a whole not materially misleading.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (a)(5) reworded to conform to former DR 2-101(A)(5).

Amended 01/01/14: Model Rule 7.1 language substituted for former RPC 7.1.

Comparison to Oregon Code

The rule retains the essential prohibition against false or misleading communications, but not the specifically enumerated types of communications deemed misleading.

RULE 7.2 ADVERTISING

(a) Subject to the requirements of Rules 7.1 and 7.3, a lawyer may advertise services through written, recorded or electronic communication, including public media.

(b) A lawyer shall not give anything of value to a person for recommending the lawyer's services except that a lawyer may

(1) pay the reasonable costs of advertisements or communications permitted by this Rule;

(2) pay the usual charges of a legal service plan or a lawyer referral service;

(3) pay for a law practice in accordance with Rule 1.17; and

(4) give nominal gifts as an expression of appreciation that are neither intended nor reasonably expected to be a form of compensation for recommending a lawyer's services.

(c) Any communication made pursuant to this rule shall include the name and contact information of at least one lawyer or law firm responsible for its content.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: Revised to track more closely Model Rule 7.2 and eliminate redundant language.

Amended 01/01/17: Revised to remove "not-for-profit" from (2) and to require listing "contact information" in lieu of "office address."

Amended 01/13/20. Revised to add subsection (b)(4) and incorporate exception for giving “nominal gifts.”

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

“Law firm”

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule retains DR 2-103’s permission for advertising in various media, provided the communications are not false or misleading and do not involve improper in-person contact. It retains the prohibition against paying another to recommend or secure employment, with the exception of a legal service plan or not-for-profit lawyer referral service. The rule also continues the requirement that communications contain the name and office address of the lawyer or firm.

Rule 7.3 Solicitation of Clients

A lawyer shall not solicit professional employment by any means when:

- (a) the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the physical, emotional or mental state of the subject of the solicitation is such that the person could not exercise reasonable judgment in employing a lawyer;**
- (b) the person who is the subject of the solicitation has made known to the lawyer a desire not to be solicited by the lawyer; or**
- (c) the solicitation involves coercion, duress or harassment.**

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: The title is changed and the phrase “target of the solicitation” or the word “anyone” is substituted for “prospective client” to avoid confusion with the use of the latter term in RPC 1.8. The phrase “Advertising Material” is substituted for “Advertising” in paragraph (c).

Amended 01/01/17: Deleting requirement that lawyer place “Advertising Material” on advertising.

Amended 01/11/18: Deleting requirements specific to “in-person, telephone or real-time electronic contact” and deleting exception for prepaid and group legal service plans

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

“Electronic communication”
“Known”
“Knows”
“Matter”
“Reasonable”
“Reasonably should know”
“Written”

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule incorporates elements of DR 2-101(D) and (H) and DR 2-104.

RULE 7.4 [RESERVED]

RULE 7.5 FIRM NAMES AND LETTERHEADS

- (a) A lawyer shall not use a firm name, letterhead or other professional designation that violates Rule 7.1. A trade name may be used by a lawyer in private practice if it does not imply a connection with a government agency or with a public or charitable legal services organization and is not otherwise in violation of Rule 7.1.**
- (b) A law firm with offices in more than one jurisdiction may use the same name or other professional designation in each jurisdiction, but identification of the lawyers in an office of the firm shall indicate the jurisdictional limitations on those not licensed to practice in the jurisdiction where the office is located.**
- (c) The name of a lawyer holding a public office shall not be used in the name of a law firm, or in communications on its behalf, during any substantial period in which the lawyer is not actively and regularly practicing with the firm.**
- (d) Lawyers may state or imply that they practice in a partnership or other organization only when that is a fact.**
- (e) A lawyer may be designated “Of Counsel” on a letterhead if the lawyer has a continuing professional relationship with a lawyer or law firm, other than as partner or associate. A lawyer may be designated as “General Counsel” or by a similar professional reference on stationery of a client if the lawyer of the lawyer’s firm devotes a substantial amount of professional time in the representation of the client.**

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 01/01/14: The rule was modified to mirror the ABA Model Rule.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

“Firm”
“Law firm”
“Partner”
“Substantial”

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule retains much of the essential content of DR 2-102.

RULE 7.6 [RESERVED]

MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROFESSION

RULE 8.1 BAR ADMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

(a) An applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer in connection with a bar admission application or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not:

- (1) knowingly make a false statement of material fact; or**
- (2) fail to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, or knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.**

(b) A lawyer admitted to practice in this state shall, within 30 days after receiving notice thereof, report in writing to the disciplinary counsel of the Oregon State Bar the commencement against the lawyer of any disciplinary proceeding in any other jurisdiction.

(c) A lawyer who is the subject of a complaint or referral to the State Lawyers Assistance Committee shall, subject to the exercise of any applicable right or privilege, cooperate with the committee and its designees, including:

- (1) responding to the initial inquiry of the committee or its designees;**
- (2) furnishing any documents in the lawyer's possession relating to the matter under investigation by the committee or its designees;**
- (3) participating in interviews with the committee or its designees; and**
- (4) participating in and complying with a remedial program established by the committee or its designees.**

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knowingly"
"Known"
"Matter"
"Writing"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) replaces DR 1-101, but is broader because the Oregon rule applies only to misconduct in connection with the lawyer's own or another person's application for admission and this rule applies to any "disciplinary

matter." Paragraph (a)(2) replaces DR 1-103(C) but requires only that a lawyer respond rather than "cooperate."

Paragraph (b) is the same as DR 1-103(D). It is placed here because it pertains to the obligations of a lawyer regarding the lawyer's own professional conduct.

Paragraph (c) is the same as DR 1-103(F). It is placed here because it pertains to the obligations of a lawyer regarding the lawyer's own professional conduct.

RULE 8.2 JUDICIAL AND LEGAL OFFICIALS

(a) A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge or adjudicatory officer, or of a candidate for election or appointment to a judicial or other adjudicatory office.

(b) A lawyer who is a candidate for judicial office shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

Comparison to Oregon Code

Paragraph (a) is essentially the same as DR 8-102(A) and (B), although the Oregon rule prohibits "accusations" rather than "statements" and applies only to statements about the qualifications of the person.

RULE 8.3 REPORTING PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

(a) A lawyer who knows that another lawyer or LP has committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Rules of Professional Conduct for LPs that raises a substantial question as to that lawyer's or LP's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer or LP in other respects shall inform the Oregon State Bar Client Assistance Office.

(b) A lawyer who knows that a judge has committed a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct that raises a substantial question as to the judge's fitness for office shall inform the appropriate authority.

(c) This rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6 or ORS 9.460(3), or apply to lawyers who obtain such knowledge or evidence while:

- (1) acting as a member, investigator, agent, employee or as a designee of the State Lawyers Assistance Committee;**

(2) acting as a board member, employee, investigator, agent or lawyer for or on behalf of the Professional Liability Fund or as a Board of Governors liaison to the Professional Liability Fund; or

(3) participating in the loss prevention programs of the Professional Liability Fund, including the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program.

(d) This rule does not require disclosure of mediation communications otherwise protected by ORS 36.220.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 1/11/2018 to add subsection "d" relating to mediation communications.

Amended 01/01/26: Paragraph (a) amended to add references to LPs.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 1-103(A) and (E). Paragraph (a) is essentially the same as DR 1-103(A), although the exception for confidential client information is found in paragraph (c). Also, the rule now requires that misconduct be reported to the OSB Client Assistance Office, to conform to changes in the Bar Rules of Procedure that were effective August 1, 2003.

Paragraph (b) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code, although the obligation might be inferred from DR 1-103(A).

Paragraph (c) incorporates the exception for information protected by rule and statute. It also incorporates the exception contained in DR 1-103(E).

RULE 8.4 MISCONDUCT

(a) It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

(1) violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;

(2) commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects;

(3) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation that reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness to practice law;

(4) engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;

(5) state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official or to achieve results by means that violate these Rules or other law;

(6) knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or other law; or

(7) in the practice of law, knowingly intimidate or harass a person because of that person's race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)(1), (3) and (4) and Rule 3.3(a)(1), it shall not be professional misconduct for a lawyer to advise clients or others about or to supervise lawful covert activity in the investigation of violations of civil or criminal law or constitutional rights, provided the lawyer's conduct is otherwise in compliance with these Rules of Professional Conduct. "Covert activity," as used in this rule, means an effort to obtain information on unlawful activity through the use of misrepresentations or other subterfuge. "Covert activity" may be commenced by a lawyer or involve a lawyer as an advisor or supervisor only when the lawyer in good faith believes there is a reasonable possibility that unlawful activity has taken place, is taking place or will take place in the foreseeable future.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(7), a lawyer shall not be prohibited from engaging in legitimate advocacy with respect to the bases set forth therein.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (a)(5) added.

Amended 02/19/15: Paragraphs (a)(7) and (c) added.

Amended 01/01/24: Paragraph (a)(7) amended, changing "in the course of representing a client" to "in the practice of law" and adding "ethnicity."

Corrected 03/01/24: Typographical errors in paragraphs (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6).

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"

"Fraud"

"Knowingly"

"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is essentially the same as DR 1-102(A).

Paragraph (b) retains DR 1-102(D).

RULE 8.5 DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY; CHOICE OF LAW

(a) Disciplinary Authority. A lawyer admitted to practice in this jurisdiction is subject to the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction, regardless of where the lawyer's conduct occurs. A lawyer not admitted in this jurisdiction is also subject to the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction if the lawyer provides or offers to provide any legal services in this jurisdiction. A lawyer may be subject to the disciplinary authority of both this jurisdiction and another jurisdiction for the same conduct.

(b) Choice of Law. In any exercise of the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction, the Rules of Professional Conduct to be applied shall be as follows:

- (1) for conduct in connection with a matter pending before a tribunal, the rules of the jurisdiction in which the tribunal sits, unless the rules of the tribunal provide otherwise; and
- (2) for any other conduct, the rules of the jurisdiction in which the lawyer's conduct occurred, or, if the predominant effect of the conduct is in a different jurisdiction, the rules of that jurisdiction shall be applied to the conduct. A lawyer shall not be subject to discipline if the lawyer's conduct conforms to the rules of a jurisdiction in which the lawyer reasonably believes the predominant effect of the lawyer's conduct will occur.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"
"Matter"
"Reasonably believes"
"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code. A similar version based on former ABA Model Rule 8.5 was adopted by the Supreme Court in 1996 as Bar Rule of Procedure 1.4.

BR 1.4(a) specifically provides that the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over a lawyer's conduct continues whether or not the lawyer retains authority to practice law in Oregon and regardless of where the lawyer resides.

BR 1.4(b)(1) is essentially the same as 8.5(b)(1).

BR 1.4(b)(2) applies the Oregon Code if the lawyer is licensed only in Oregon. If the lawyer is licensed in Oregon and another jurisdiction, the rules of the

jurisdiction in which the lawyer principally practices apply, or if the conduct has its predominant effect in another jurisdiction in which the lawyer is licensed, then the rules of that jurisdiction will apply.

RULE 8.6 WRITTEN ADVISORY OPINIONS ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT; CONSIDERATION GIVEN IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

(a) The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors may issue formal written advisory opinions on questions under these Rules. The Oregon State Bar Legal Ethics Committee and General Counsel's Office may also issue informal written advisory opinions on questions under these Rules. The General Counsel's Office of the Oregon State Bar shall maintain records of both OSB formal and informal written advisory opinions and copies of each shall be available to the Oregon Supreme Court, Disciplinary Board, State Professional Responsibility Board, and Disciplinary Counsel. The General Counsel's Office may also disseminate the bar's advisory opinions as it deems appropriate to its role in educating lawyers about these Rules.

(b) In considering alleged violations of these Rules, the Disciplinary Board and Oregon Supreme Court may consider any lawyer's good faith effort to comply with an opinion issued under paragraph (a) of this rule as:

- (1) a showing of the lawyer's good faith effort to comply with these Rules; and
- (2) a basis for mitigation of any sanction that may be imposed if the lawyer is found to be in violation of these Rules.

(c) This rule is not intended to, and does not, preclude the Disciplinary Board or the Oregon Supreme Court from considering any other evidence of either good faith or basis for mitigation in a bar disciplinary proceeding.

Adopted 01/01/05.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Written"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is identical to DR 1-105, amended only to refer to "General Counsel's Office" in the second sentence of paragraph (a), rather than only to "General Counsel," to make it clear that opinions of assistant general counsel are covered by the rule.

DR 1-101	Rule 8.1(a)
DR 1-102(A)(1)	Rule 8.4(a)(1)
DR 1-102(A)(2)	Rule 8.4(a)(2)
DR 1-102(A)(3)	Rule 8.4(a)(3)
DR 1-102(A)(4)	Rule 8.4(a)(4)
DR 1-102(A)(5)	Rule 7.1(a)(5)
DR 1-102(B)(1)	Rule 5.1(c)(1)
DR 1-102(B)(2)	Rule 5.1(c)(2)
DR 1-102(C)	Rule 5.2(a)
DR 1-102(D)	Rule 8.4(b)
DR 1-103(A)	Rule 8.3(a)
DR 1-103(B)	Rule 8.3(b)
DR 1-103(C)	Rule 8.1(a)
DR 1-103(D)	Rule 8.1(b)
DR 1-103(E)	Rule 8.3(c)
DR 1-103(F)	Rule 8.1(c)
DR 1-104	Eliminated
DR 1-105	Rule 8.6
DR 2-101(A)(1)	Rule 7.1(a)(1)
DR 2-101(A)(2)	Rule 7.1(a)(2)
DR 2-101(A)(3)	Rule 7.1(a)(3)
DR 2-101(A)(4)	Rule 7.1(a)(4)
DR 2-101(A)(5)	eliminated
DR 2-101(A)(6)	Rule 7.1(a)(6)
DR 2-101(A)(7)	Rule 7.1(a)(7)
DR 2-101(A)(8)	Rule 7.1(a)(8)
DR 2-101(A)(9)	Rule 7.1(a)(9)
DR 2-101(A)(10)	Rule 7.1(a)(10)
DR 2-101(A)(11)	Rule 7.1(a)(11)
DR 2-101(A)(12)	Rule 7.1(a)(12)
DR 2-101(B)	eliminated
DR 2-101(C)	Rule 7.1(b)
DR 2-101(D)	Rule 7.3(b)

DR 2-101(E)	Rule 7.1(c)
DR 2-101(F)	Rule 7.1(d)
DR 2-101(G)	Rule 7.1(e)
DR 2-101(H)	Rule 7.3(c)
DR 2-102(A)	Rule 7.5(a)
DR 2-102(B)	Rule 7.5(b)
DR 2-102(C)	Rule 7.5(c)
DR 2-102(D)	Rule 7.5(d)
DR 2-102(E)	Rule 7.5(e)
DR 2-102(F)	Rule 7.5(f)
DR 2-103(A)	Rule 7.2(a)
DR 2-103(B)	Rule 7.2(b)
DR 2-103(C)	Rule 7.2(c)
DR 2-104(A)(1)	Rule 7.3(a)
DR 2-104(A)(2)	Rule 7.3(a)
DR 2-104(A)(3)	Rule 7.3(d)
DR 2-104(B)	Eliminated
DR 2-105	Rule 5.4(e)
DR 2-106(A)	Rule 1.5(a)
DR 2-106(B)	Rule 1.5(b)
DR 2-106(C)	Rule 1.5(c)
DR 2-107(A)	Rule 1.5(d)
DR 2-107(B)	Rule 1.5(e)
DR 2-108	Rule 5.6
DR 2-109	Rule 3.1
DR 2-110	Rule 1.16
DR 2-111	Rule 1.17
DR 3-101(A)	Rule 5.5(a)
DR 3-101(B)	Rule 5.5(a)
DR 3-102	Rule 5.4(a)
DR 3-103	Rule 5.4(b)
DR 4-101(A)-C	Rule 1.6(a)-(b)

DR 4-101(D)	Rule 5.3(b)
DR 5-101(A)(1)	Rule 1.7(a)(2)
DR 5-101(A)(2)	Rule 1.7(a)(3)
DR 5-101(B)	Rule 1.8(c)
DR 5-102	Rule 3.7
DR 5-103(A)	Rule 1.8(i)
DR 5-103(B)	Rule 1.8(e)
DR 5-104(A)	Rule 1.8(a)
DR 5-104(B)	Rule 1.8(d)
DR 5-105(A)(1)	Rule 1.7(b)(3)
DR 5-105(B)	Rule 1.0(i)
DR 5-105(C)	Rule 1.9(a)
DR 5-105(D)	Rule 1.9(a)
DR 5-105(E)	Rule 1.7(a)
DR 5-105(F)	Rule 1.7(b)
DR 5-105(G)	Rule 1.8(k)
DR 5-105(H)	Rule 1.9(b)
DR 5-105(I)	Rule 1.10(c)
DR 5-105(J)	Rule 1.10(b)
DR 5-106	Rule 2.4
DR 5-107	Rule 1.8(g)
DR 5-108(A)	Rule 1.8(f)
DR 5-108(B)	Rule 5.4(c)
DR 5-109(A)	Rule 1.12(a)
DR 5-109(B)	Rule 1.11(a)
DR 5-110	Rule 1.8(j)
DR 6-101(A)	Rule 1.1
DR 6-101(B)	Rule 1.3
DR 6-102(A)	Rule 1.8(h)(1)-(2)
DR 6-102(B)	Rule 1.8(h)(3)
DR 7-101(A)	Rule 1.2(a)

DR 7-101(B)	Rule 1.2(a)
DR 7-101(C)	Rule 1.14
DR 7-101(D)	Rule 2.3
DR 7-102(A)(1)	Rule 3.1, 4.4(a)
DR 7-102(A)(2)	Rule 3.1
DR 7-102(A)(3)	Rule 3.3(a)(4)
DR 7-102(A)(4)	Rule 3.3(a)(3)
DR 7-102(A)(5)	Rule 3.3(a)(1)
DR 7-102(A)(6)	Rule 3.4(b)
DR 7-102(A)(7)	Rule 1.2(c)
DR 7-102(A)(8)	eliminated
DR 7-102(B)	Rule 3.3(b)
DR 7-103	Rule 3.8
DR 7-104(A)(1)	Rule 4.2
DR 7-104(A)(2)	Rule 4.3
DR 7-105	Rule 3.4(g)
DR 7-106(A)	Rule 3.4(c)
DR 7-106(B)(1)	Rule 3.3(a)(2)
DR 7-106(B)(2)	eliminated
DR 7-106(C)(1)	Rule 3.4(e)
DR 7-106(C)(2)	eliminated
DR 7-106(C)(3)	Rule 3.4(e)
DR 7-106(C)(4)	Rule 3.4(e)
DR 7-106(C)(5)	eliminated
DR 7-106(C)(6)	Rule 3.5(d)
DR 7-106(C)(7)	Rule 3.4(c)
DR 7-107(A)	Rule 3.6(a)
DR 7-107(B)	Rule 3.6(b)
DR 7-107(C)	Rule 3.6(c)
DR 7-108(A)	Rule 3.5(b)
DR 7-108(B)	Rule 3.5(b)
DR 7-108(C)	eliminated
DR 7-108(D)	Rule 3.5(c)
DR 7-108(E)	Rule 3.5(c)

DR 7-108(F)	Rule 3.5(c)
DR 7-108(G)	Rule 3.5(e)
DR 7-109(A)	Rule 3.4(a)
DR 7-109(B)	Rule 3.4(f)
DR 7-110	Rule 3.5(b)
DR 8-101(A)(1)	Rule 1.11(c) & (d)(i)(1)
DR 8-101(A)(2)	Rule 1.11(d)(ii)
DR 8-101(A)(3)	Rule 1.11(d)(iii)
DR 8-101(A)(4)	Rule 1.11(c) & (d)(iv)
DR 8-101(B)	eliminated
DR 8-101(C)	Rule 1.11(e)
DR 8-101(D)	Rule 1.11(f)
DR 8-102	Rule 8.2
DR 8-103	Rule 8.2(b)
DR 9-101(A)-(C)	Rule 1.15-1(a)-(e)
DR 9-101(D)(1)	Rule 1.15(a)
DR 9-101(D)(2)-(4)	Rule 1.15-2(a)-(h)
DR 9-102	Rule 1.15(i)-(l)
DR 10-101	Rule 1.0

Rule 1.0	DR 10-101
Rule 1.0(i)	DR 5-105(B)
Rule 1.1	DR 6-101(A)
Rule 1.2(a)	DR 7-101(A)&(B)
Rule 1.2(c)	DR 7-102(A)(7)
Rule 1.3	DR 6-101(B)
Rule 1.5(a)	DR 2-106(A)
Rule 1.5(b)	DR 2-106(B)
Rule 1.5(c)	DR 2-106(C)
Rule 1.5(d)	DR 2-107(A)
Rule 1.5(e)	DR 2-107(B)
Rule 1.6(a)-(b)	DR 4-101(A)-(C)
Rule 1.7(a)(1)	DR 5-105(E)
Rule 1.7(a)(2)	DR 5-101(A)(1)
Rule 1.7(a)(3)	DR 5-101(A)(2)
Rule 1.7(b)	DR 5-105(F)
Rule 1.7(b)(3)	DR 5-105(A)(1)
Rule 1.8(a)	DR 5-104(A)
Rule 1.8(b)	DR 4-101(B)
Rule 1.8(c)	DR 5-101(B)
Rule 1.8(d)	DR 5-104(B)
Rule 1.8(e)	DR 5-103(B)
Rule 1.8(f)	DR 5-108(A)
Rule 1.8(g)	DR 5-107
Rule 1.8(h)(1)-(2)	DR 6-102(A)
Rule 1.8(h)(3)	DR 6-102(B)
Rule 1.8(i)	DR 5-103(A)
Rule 1.8(j)	DR 5-110
Rule 1.8(k)	DR 5-105(G)
Rule 1.9(a)	DR 5-105(C)&(D)
Rule 1.9(b)	DR 5-105(H)
Rule 1.10(a)	DR 5-105(G)
Rule 1.10(b)	DR 5-105(J)

Rule 1.10(c)	DR 5-105(I)
Rule 1.11(a)	DR 5-109(B) & 8-101(B)
Rule 1.11(b)	DR 5-105(G)
Rule 1.11(c)	DR 8-101(A)(4)
Rule 1.11(d)(2)(i)-(iv)	DR 8-101(A)(1)-(4)
Rule 1.11(e)	DR 8-101(C)
Rule 1.11(f)	DR 8-101(D)
Rule 1.12(a)	DR 5-109(A)
Rule 1.14	DR 7-101(C)
Rule 1.15-1	DR 9-101(A)-(C) & (D)(1)
Rule 1.15-2(a)-(h)	DR 9-101(D)(2)-(4)
Rule 1.15-2(i)-(l)	DR 9-102
Rule 1.16	DR 2-110
Rule 1.17	DR 2-111
Rule 2.3	DR 7-101(D)
Rule 2.4	DR 5-106
Rule 3.1	DR 2-109 & 7-102(A)(1) & (2)
Rule 3.3(a)(1)	DR 7-102(A)(5)
Rule 3.3(a)(2)	DR 7-106(B)(1)
Rule 3.3(a)(3)	DR 7-102(A)(4)
Rule 3.3(a)(4)	DR 7-102(A)(3)
Rule 3.3(a)(5)	DR 7-102((A)(8)
Rule 3.3(b)	DR 7-102(B)
Rule 3.4(a)	DR 7-109(A)
Rule 3.4(b)	DR 7-102(A)(6) & 7-109(B)&(C)
Rule 3.4(c)	DR 7-106(A) & (C)(7)
Rule 3.4(e)	DR 7-106(C)(1), (3)&(4)

Rule 3.4(f)	DR 7-109(B)
Rule 3.4(g)	DR 7-105
Rule 3.5(b)	DR 7-108(A)&(B) & DR 7-110
Rule 3.5(c)	DR 7-108(D)-(F)
Rule 3.5(d)	DR 7-106(C)(6)
Rule 3.5(e)	DR 7-108(G)
Rule 3.6(a)	DR 7-107(A)
Rule 3.6(b)	DR 7-107(B)
Rule 3.6(c)	DR 7-107(C)
Rule 3.7	DR 5-102
Rule 3.8	DR 7-103
Rule 4.2	DR 7-104(A)(1)
Rule 4.3	DR 7-104(A)(2)
Rule 4.4(a)	DR 7-102(A)(1)
Rule 5.1(a)	DR 1-102(B)(1)
Rule 5.1(b)	DR 1-102(B)(2)
Rule 5.2(a)	DR 1-102(C)
Rule 5.3(B)	DR 4-101(D)
Rule 5.4(a)	DR 3-102
Rule 5.4(b)	DR 3-103
Rule 5.4(c)	DR 5-108(B)
Rule 5.4(d)	DR 5-108(D)
Rule 5.4(e)	DR 2-105
Rule 5.5(a)	DR 3-101
Rule 5.6	DR 2-108
Rule 6.3	DR 5-108(C)(1)&(2)
Rule 6.4	DR 5-108(C)(3)
Rule 7.1(a)(1)	DR 2-101(A)(1)
Rule 7.1(a)(2)	DR 2-101(A)(2)
Rule 7.1(a)(3)	DR 2-102(A)(3)

Rule 7.1(a)(4)	DR 2-102(A)(4)
Rule 7.1(a)(5)	DR 1-102(A)(5)
Rule 7.1(a)(6)	DR 2-101(A)(6)
Rule 7.1(a)(7)	DR 2-101(A)(7)
Rule 7.1(a)(8)	DR 2-101(A)(8)
Rule 7.1(a)(9)	DR 2-101(A)(9)
Rule 7.1(a)(10)	DR 2-101(A)(10)
Rule 71.(a)(11)	DR 2-101(A)(11)
Rule 7.1(a)(12)	DR 2-101(A)(12)
Rule 7.1(b)	DR 2-101(C)
Rule 7.1(c)	DR 2-101(D)
Rule 7.1(d)	DR 2-101(F)
Rule 7.1(e)	DR 2-101(G)

Rule 7.2(a)	DR 2-103(A)
Rule 7.2(b)	DR 2-103(B)
Rule 7.2(c)	DR 2-103(C)
Rule 7.3(a)	DR 2-104(A)(1)
Rule 7.3(b)	DR 2-101(D)
Rule 7.3(c)	DR 2-101(H)
Rule 7.3(d)	DR 2-104(A)(3)
Rule 7.5(a)	DR 2-102(A)
Rule 7.5(b)	DR 2-102(B)
Rule 7.5(c)	DR 2-102(C)
Rule 7.5(d)	DR 2-102(D)
Rule 7.5(e)	DR 2-102(E)
Rule 7.5(f)	DR 2-102(F)

Rule 8.1(a)	DR 1-101 & 1-103(C)
Rule 8.1(b)	DR 1-103(D)
Rule 8.1(c)	DR 1-103(F)
Rule 8.2(a)	DR 8-102
Rule 8.2(b)	DR 8-103
Rule 8.3(a)	DR 1-103(A)
Rule 8.3(b)	DR 1-103(B)
Rule 8.3(c)	DR 1-103(E)
Rule 8.4(a)(1)-(4)	DR 1-102(A)(1)-(4)
Rule 8.4(b)	DR 1-102(D)
Rule 8.6	DR 1-105