

**JOINT ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME  
COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION**

The Judicial Departments of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, pursuant to the authority vested in them, do hereby amend Part 1200, Rule 7.5 (Rules of Professional Conduct) of Title 22 of the Official Compilation of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York, as follows, effective immediately (deletions in strikethrough, additions underlined).

**Rule 7.5: Professional Notices, Letterheads and Signs-Names**

(a) A lawyer or law firm may use internet web sites, professional cards, professional announcement cards, office signs, letterheads, or similar professional notices or devices, provided the same do not violate these Rules or any statute or court rule. ~~and are in accordance with Rule 7.1, including the following:~~

~~(1) a professional card of a lawyer identifying the lawyer by name and as a lawyer, and giving addresses, telephone numbers, the name of the law firm, and any information permitted under Rule 7.1(b) or Rule 7.4. A professional card of a law firm may also give the names of members and associates;~~

~~(2) a professional announcement card stating new or changed associations or addresses, change of firm name, or similar matters pertaining to the professional offices of a lawyer or law firm or any nonlegal business conducted by the lawyer or law firm pursuant to Rule 5.7. It may state biographical data, the names of members of the firm and associates, and the names and dates of predecessor firms in a continuing line of succession. It may state the nature of the legal practice if permitted under Rule 7.4;~~

~~(3) a sign in or near the office and in the building directory identifying the law office and any nonlegal business conducted by the lawyer or law firm pursuant to Rule 5.7. The sign may state the nature of the legal practice if permitted under Rule 7.4; or~~

~~(4) a letterhead identifying the lawyer by name and as a lawyer, and giving addresses, telephone numbers, the name of the law firm, associates and any information permitted under Rule 7.1(b) or Rule 7.4. A letter head of a law firm may also give the names of members and associates, and names and dates relating to deceased and retired members. A lawyer or law firm may be designated "Of Counsel" on a letterhead if there is a continuing relationship with a lawyer or law firm, other than as a partner or associate. A lawyer or law firm may be designated as "General Counsel" or by similar professional reference on stationery of a client if the lawyer or the firm devotes a substantial amount of professional time in the representation of that client. The letterhead of a law firm may give the names and dates of predecessor firms in a continuing line of succession.~~

(b)(1) A lawyer or law firm in private practice shall not practice under:

- (i) a false, deceptive, or misleading trade name;
- (ii) a false, deceptive, or misleading domain name; or
- (iii) a name that is misleading as to the identity of the lawyer or lawyers practicing under such name.

~~a trade name, or a firm name containing names other than those of one or more of the lawyers in the firm, except that except that the name of a professional corporation shall contain "PC" or such symbols permitted by law, the name of a limited liability company or partnership shall contain "LLC," "LLP" or such symbols permitted by law and, if otherwise lawful, a firm may use as, or continue to include in its name the name or names of one or more deceased or retired members of the firm or of a predecessor firm in a continuing line of succession. Such terms as "legal clinic," "legal aid," "legal service office," "legal assistance office," "defender office" and the like may be used only by qualified legal assistance organizations, except that the term "legal clinic" may be used by any lawyer or law firm provided the name of a participating lawyer or firm is incorporated therein. A lawyer or law firm may not include the name of a nonlawyer in its firm name, nor may a lawyer or law firm that has a contractual relationship with a nonlegal professional or nonlegal professional service firm pursuant to Rule 5.8 to provide legal and other professional services on a systematic and continuing basis include in its firm name the name of the nonlegal professional service firm or any individual nonlegal professional affiliated therewith. A lawyer who assumes a judicial, legislative or public executive or administrative post or office shall not permit the lawyer's name to remain in the name of a law firm or to be used in professional notices of the firm during any significant period in which the lawyer is not actively and regularly practicing law as a member of the firm and, during such period, other members of the firm shall not use the lawyer's name in the firm name or in professional notices of the firm.~~

## (2) Specific Guidance Regarding Law Firm Names.

- (i) Such terms as "legal clinic," "legal aid," "legal service office," "legal assistance office," "defender office," and the like may be used only by bona fide legal assistance organizations.
- (ii) A law firm name, trade name, or domain name may not include the terms "non-profit" or "not-for-profit" unless the law firm qualifies for those designations under applicable law.
- (iii) A lawyer or law firm in private practice may not include the name of a nonlawyer in its firm name.
- (iv) The name of a professional corporation shall contain "PC" or such symbols permitted by law.

(v) The name of a limited liability company or limited liability partnership shall contain “LLC,” “LLP” or such symbols permitted by law.

(vi) ~~(f)~~ A lawyer or law firm may utilize a telephone number which that contains a trade name, domain name, nickname, moniker, or motto that does not otherwise violate these Rules.

~~(3) A lawyer or law firm may not include the name of a nonlawyer in its firm name, nor may a lawyer or law firm that has a contractual relationship with a nonlegal professional or nonlegal professional service firm pursuant to Rule 5.8 to provide legal and other professional services on a systematic and continuing basis may not include in its firm name the name of the nonlegal professional service firm or any individual nonlegal professional affiliated therewith.~~

(4) A lawyer who assumes a judicial, legislative or public executive or administrative post or office shall not permit the lawyer’s name to remain in the name of a law firm or to be used in professional notices of the firm during any significant period in which the lawyer is not actively and regularly practicing law as a member of the firm and, during such period, other members of the firm shall not use the lawyer’s name in the firm name or in professional notices of the firm.

(c) Lawyers shall not hold themselves out as having a partnership with one or more other lawyers unless they are in fact partners.

(d) A partnership shall not be formed or continued between or among lawyers licensed in different jurisdictions unless all enumerations of the members and associates of the firm on its letterhead and in other permissible listings make clear the jurisdictional limitations on those members and associates of the firm not licensed to practice in all listed jurisdictions; however, the same firm name may be used in each jurisdiction.

~~(e) A lawyer or law firm may utilize a domain name for an internet web site that does not include the name of the lawyer or law firm provided:~~

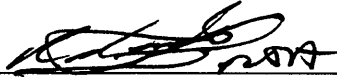
~~(1) all pages of the web site clearly and conspicuously include the actual name of the lawyer or law firm;~~

~~(2) the lawyer or law firm in no way attempts to engage in the practice of law using the domain name;~~

~~(3) the domain name does not imply an ability to obtain results in a matter; and~~


~~(4) the domain name does not otherwise violate these Rules.~~

~~(f) A lawyer or law firm may utilize a telephone number which contains a domain name, nickname, moniker or motto that does not otherwise violate these Rules.~~



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Hon. Rolando T. Acosta  
Presiding Justice  
First Judicial Department



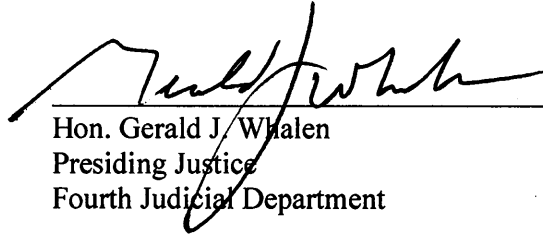
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Hon. Elizabeth Garry  
Presiding Justice  
Third Judicial Department



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Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman  
Presiding Justice  
Second Judicial Department



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Hon. Gerald J. Whalen  
Presiding Justice  
Fourth Judicial Department

Date: June ~~24~~, 2020