

NEWS

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CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION PRAISES ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT'S NEW PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT CODE

CHICAGO, ILL. (July 2, 2009) -- Chicago Bar Association (CBA) President Anita M. Alvarez on Wednesday said the Illinois Supreme Court's adoption of a new code of professional conduct for lawyers will provide a practical working guide for Illinois attorneys and will be a useful tool in the court's oversight of the legal profession.

The newly adopted "Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct" go into effect January 1, 2010. They are based largely on the American Bar Association's (ABA) "Model Rules of Professional Conduct," which were approved by the ABA's House of Delegates in 2002. Following the ABA's adoption of the "Model Rules," the CBA and Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) formed a joint committee to review them with the goal of recommending their adoption in Illinois. The joint CBA/ISBA committee conducted a comprehensive analysis and review of the ABA's proposed rules and submitted its report to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2004 recommending adoption of substantially all of the ABA's "Model Rules," including the new "Comments" section.

Alvarez said, "The Illinois Supreme Court's adoption (in substantial part) of the ABA's 'Model Rules' achieves a higher level of national uniformity and consistency with the ethical rules of other jurisdictions. In addition, they establish clearer ethical rules for Illinois lawyers, for Illinois lawyers licensed to practice in more than one state, and for lawyers engaged in multi-jurisdictional practice, which is becoming more common in the U.S. Finally, adoption of the new 'Comments' section in the ABA 'Model Rules' gives lawyers a clearer understanding of the reasoning and authority behind each of the rules."

Alvarez added, "The CBA has already begun the planning process to educate our members

about the new Illinois rules through our publications and Continuing Legal Education Seminars that will have a special focus on legal ethics."

About The Chicago Bar Association

Founded in 1874, the 22,000-member CBA is one of the largest metropolitan bar associations in the country. The CBA is governed by 24 Officers and members of the Board of Managers. Its 54 Practice Committees, 23 Service Committees and 15 Special Committees provide a wide variety of services to the legal profession, the state and federal courts and the public. For more information visit the CBA website at www.chicagobar.org.