## ABA COMMISSION ON ETHICS 20/20 Notice of Public Hearing Friday, August 5, 2011, Toronto, ON

On Friday, August 5, 2011, the ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 will hold a public hearing, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard Street West, Mountbatten Salon A, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario.

The hearing will focus on Alternative Business Structures. The Commission welcomes testimony from the profession and the public. The Commission seeks information to assist it in determining whether to propose any forms of alternative business structures that, consistent with professional core values, would enhance access to legal services for those otherwise unable to afford them, and would provide new and varied opportunities for U.S. lawyers and law firms to better serve clients. The Commission has decided that it would be inappropriate to recommend that either passive equity investment or public trading of shares in law firms be permitted in the United States at this time, though both policies have been adopted elsewhere in recent years.

To become informed regarding the background of the discussion, view the Commission's ABS Issues Paper and comments received to date at:

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/ethics\_2020/abs\_issues\_paper.authc heckdam.pdf; and

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional\_responsibility/aba\_commission\_on\_ethics\_20\_2\_0.html.

The Commission also welcomes and encourages testimony regarding other issues relevant to its work, including the initial proposals released for comment on May 2, 2011. Those may be viewed at:

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional\_responsibility/aba\_commission\_on\_ethics\_20\_2 0.html .

Appearances are limited to five minute presentations followed by a five minute question and answer period. The Commission will work to accommodate all appearance requests.

Individuals or organizational representatives interested in testifying should contact Kimley Grant at <a href="mailto:kimley.grant@americanbar.org">kimley.grant@americanbar.org</a> or 312/988-5319, **no later than July 25, 2011.** To assist the Commission in preparing for the hearing and to facilitate discussion, please provide to Ms. Grant, by **July 25, 2011**, via email or hard copy, a written submission outlining your anticipated testimony and providing citations to relevant resources. You may email submissions to Ms. Grant or send them to her attention at the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send written comments to Senior Research Paralegal Natalia Vera at <a href="matalia.vera@americanbar.org">natalia.vera@americanbar.org</a> or to her attention at the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654

Written submissions may be posted to the Commission's web site.