

	<p style="text-align: center;">American Bar Association CPR Policy Implementation Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Variations of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rule 7.4 Communication of Fields of Practice and Specialization</p> <p>(a) A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law.</p> <p>(b) A lawyer admitted to engage in patent practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office may use the designation "Patent Attorney" or a substantially similar designation.</p> <p>(c) A lawyer engaged in Admiralty practice may use the designation "Admiralty," "Proctor in Admiralty" or a substantially similar designation.</p> <p>(d) A lawyer shall not state or imply that a lawyer is certified as a specialist in a particular field of law, unless:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) the lawyer has been certified as a specialist by an organization that has been approved by an appropriate state authority or that has been accredited by the American Bar Association; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) the name of the certifying organization is clearly identified in the communication.</p> <p>Variations from ABA Model Rule are noted. Based on reports of state committees reviewing recent changes to the model rules. For information on individual state committee reports, see http://www.abanet.org/cpr/jclr/home.html.</p> <p>Comments not included.</p> <p>*Current links to state Rules of Professional conduct can be found on the ABA website: http://www.abanet.org/cpr/links.html*</p>
AL Effective 2/19/09	<p>Text of rule is similar to MR (a), but adds to end, "A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist except as follows;"</p> <p>(a) is identical to MR (b);</p> <p>(b) is almost identical to MR (c) but adds "or" to end;</p> <p>Does not adopt MR (d);</p> <p>Adds (c):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(c) a lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer has been certified as a specialist in a field of law by a named organization or authority, but only if such certification is granted by an organization previously approved by the Alabama State Bar Board of Legal Certification to grant such certifications.</i></p>

As of October 21, 2010

	<p><i>(c) a lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer has been certified as a specialist in a field of law by a named organization or authority, but only if such certification is granted by an organization previously approved by the Alabama State Bar Board of Legal Certification to grant such certifications.</i></p>
AK Effective 4/15/09	<p>First sentence of first paragraph is the same as MR (a); Second sentence is similar to MR (d) but replaces language after “lawer is” with “a “specialist,” certified,” or words of similar import except as follows;” (a) is the same as MR (b); Adds: <i>(b) a lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer has been certified as a specialist in a field of law by a named organization or authority, but only if that certification is granted by an organization or authority whose specialty certification program is accredited by the American Bar Association.</i> Does not adopt MR (c), (d)(1) or (d)(2).</p>
AZ Effective 12/1/03	<p>Introduction is slightly different from old MR introduction: “A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law. A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist except as follows:” (a) and (b) are essentially the same as MR (b) and (c). (c) replaces MR (d) and reads: (c) certified by the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization or by a national entity that has standards for certification substantially the same as those established by the board may state the area or areas of specialization in which the lawyer is certified. Prior to stating that the lawyer is a specialist certified by a national entity, the entity must be recognized by the board as having standards for certification substantially the same as those established by the board. If the national entity has not been recognized by the board, it may make application for recognition by completing an application form provided by the board.</p>
AR Effective 5/1/05	<p>Adds (e): <u>[Transitional Provisions (December 31, 2002 – December 31, 2005)]</u> <u>(1) A lawyer who is currently certified as a Board Recognized Specialist in Tax Law under the Arkansas Plan of Specialization may communicate such fact through December 31, 2005.</u> <u>(2) The Arkansas Legal Specialization Transition Task Force shall discharge any administrative, supervisory, or other duties previously discharged by the Board of Legal Specialization or the Tax Speciality Committee that may arise during the transition period. No new specialists shall be recognized under the Arkansas Plan of Specialization.</u></p>
CA Current Rule	<p>[California’s Rules of Professional Conduct are structured differently from the ABA Model Rules. Please see California Rules : http://calbar.ca.gov/calbar/pdfs/rules/Rules_Professional-Conduct.pdf]</p>
CO Effective 1/1/08	<p>Deletes “and Specialization” from title; (a) Adds: “or that the lawyer is a specialist in particular fields of law. Such communication shall be in accordance with Rule 7.1;” Adds: <i>(e) In any advertisement in which a lawyer affirmatively claims to be certified in any area of the law, such advertisement shall contain the following disclosure: "Colorado does not certify lawyers as specialists in any field."</i></p>

As of October 21, 2010

	<i>This disclaimer is not required where the information concerning the lawyer's services is contained in a law list, law directory or a publication intended primarily for use of the legal profession.</i>
CT Effective 1/1/07	Title: deletes "and Specialization" First paragraph: first sentence same as MR (a) and adds "A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist except as follows and as provided in Rule 7.4A:" to end (1) and (2): same as MR (b) and (c) Does not have MR (d)
DE Effective 7/1/03	Same as MR
District of Columbia Effective 2/1/07	Does not adopt
FL Effective 5/22/06	Title: same as MR 7.3 (a) Solicitation. Except as provided in subdivision (b) of this rule, a lawyer shall not solicit professional employment from a prospective client with whom the lawyer has no family or prior professional relationship, in person or otherwise, when a significant motive for the lawyer's doing so is the lawyer's pecuniary gain. A lawyer shall not permit employees or agents of the lawyer to solicit on the lawyer's behalf. A lawyer shall not enter into an agreement for, charge, or collect a fee for professional employment obtained in violation of this rule. The term "solicit" includes contact in person, by telephone, telegraph, or facsimile, or by other communication directed to a specific recipient and includes (i) any written form of communication directed to a specific recipient and not meeting the requirements of subdivision (b) of this rule, and (ii) any electronic mail communication directed to a specific recipient and not meeting the requirements of subdivision (c) of rule 4-7.6. (b) Written Communication Sent on an Unsolicited Basis. (1) A lawyer shall not send, or knowingly permit to be sent, on the lawyer's behalf or on behalf of the lawyer's firm or partner, an associate, or any other lawyer affiliated with the lawyer or the lawyer's firm, an unsolicited written communication directly or indirectly to a prospective client for the purpose of obtaining professional employment if: (A) the written communication concerns an action for personal injury or wrongful death or otherwise relates to an accident or disaster involving the person to whom the communication is addressed or a relative of that person, unless the accident or disaster occurred more than 30 days prior to the mailing of the communication; (B) the written communication concerns a specific matter and the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the person to whom the communication is directed is represented by a lawyer in the matter; (C) it has been made known to the lawyer that the person does not want to receive such communications from the lawyer; (D) the communication involves coercion, duress, fraud, overreaching, harassment,

	<p>intimidation, or undue influence;</p> <p>(E) the communication contains a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement or claim or is improper under subdivision (c)(1) of rule 4-7.2;</p> <p>(F) the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the physical, emotional, or mental state of the person makes it unlikely that the person would exercise reasonable judgment in employing a lawyer.</p> <p>(G) the communication concerns a request for an injunction for protection against any form of physical violence and is addressed to the respondent in the injunction petition, if the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the respondent named in the injunction petition has not yet been served with notice of process in the matter.</p> <p>(2) Written communications to prospective clients for the purpose of obtaining professional employment are subject to the following requirements:</p> <p>(A) Written communications to a prospective client are subject to the requirements of rule 4-7.2.</p> <p>(B) The first page of such written communications shall be plainly marked “advertisement” in red ink, and the lower left corner of the face of the envelope containing a written communication likewise shall carry a prominent, red “advertisement” mark. If the written communication is in the form of a self-mailing brochure or pamphlet, the “advertisement” mark in red ink shall appear on the address panel of the brochure or pamphlet and on the inside of the brochure or pamphlet. Brochures solicited by clients or prospective clients need not contain the “advertisement” mark.</p> <p>(C) Written communications mailed to prospective clients shall be sent only by regular U.S. mail, not by registered mail or other forms of restricted delivery.</p> <p>(D) Every written communication shall be accompanied by a written statement detailing the background, training and experience of the lawyer or law firm. This statement must include information about the specific experience of the advertising lawyer or law firm in the area or areas of law for which professional employment is sought. Every written communication disseminated by a lawyer referral service shall be accompanied by a written statement detailing the background, training, and experience of each lawyer to whom the recipient may be referred.</p> <p>(E) If a contract for representation is mailed with the written communication, the top of each page of the contract shall be marked “SAMPLE” in red ink in a type size 1 size larger than the largest type used in the contract and the words “DO NOT SIGN” shall appear on the client signature line.</p> <p>(F) The first sentence of any written communication prompted by a specific occurrence involving or affecting the intended recipient of the communication or a family member shall be: “If you have already retained a lawyer for this matter, please disregard this letter.”</p> <p>(G) Written communications shall not be made to resemble legal pleadings or other legal documents. This provision does not preclude the mailing of brochures and pamphlets.</p> <p>(H) If a lawyer other than the lawyer whose name or signature appears on the communication will actually handle the case or matter, any written communication</p>
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	<p>concerning a specific matter shall include a statement so advising the client.</p> <p>(I) Any written communication prompted by a specific occurrence involving or affecting the intended recipient of the communication or a family member shall disclose how the lawyer obtained the information prompting the communication. The disclosure required by this rule shall be specific enough to help the recipient understand the extent of the lawyer's knowledge regarding the recipient's particular situation.</p> <p>(J) A written communication seeking employment by a specific prospective client in a specific matter shall not reveal on the envelope, or on the outside of a self-mailing brochure or pamphlet, the nature of the client's legal problem.</p>
<p>GA* Effective 1/1/01</p>	<p><i>*Has not amended Rule since the most recent amendments to the ABA Model Rules</i></p> <p>Deletes "and specialization" from title; <i>A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law. A lawyer who is a specialist in a particular field of law by experience, specialized training or education, or is certified by a recognized and bona fide professional entity, may communicate such specialty or certification so long as the statement is not false or misleading.</i></p> <p><i>The maximum penalty for a violation of this Rule is a public reprimand.</i></p>
<p>HI* Effective 1/1/94</p>	<p><i>*Has not amended Rule since the most recent amendments to the ABA Model Rules</i></p> <p>Deletes "Specialization" from title and replaces with "certification;" Adds after first sentence: "A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer has been recognized or certified as a specialist in a particular field of law, except as follows;" Rule text is MR (a); (a) is MR (b); (b) is MR (c); Does not have MR (d); Adds: <i>(c) a lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer is certified as a specialist in a field of law by a named organization, provided that the communication (i) is not false or misleading within the meaning of Rule 7.1, (ii) clearly states the name of the certifying organization, and (iii) is accompanied by a statement that "The Supreme Court of Hawai'i grants Hawai'i certification only to lawyers in good standing who have successfully completed a specialty program accredited by the American Bar Association."</i></p>
<p>ID Effective 7/1/04</p>	<p>(d)(1) reads: "... approved by the Idaho State Bar"</p>
<p>IL Effective 1/1/2010</p>	<p>(b) Adds at beginning of paragraph, "The Supreme Court of Illinois does not recognize certifications of specialties in the practice of law, nor does it recognize certifications of expertise in any phase of the practice of law by any agency, governmental or private, or by any group, organization or association;" Deletes (c) and (d);</p>

	<p>Adds paragraph (c): “Except when identifying certificates, awards or recognitions issued to him or her by an agency or organization, a lawyer may not use the terms “certified,” “specialist,” “expert,” or any other, similar terms to describe his qualifications as a lawyer or his qualifications in any subspecialty of the law. If such terms are used to identify any certificates, awards or recognitions issued by any agency, governmental or private, or by any group, organization or association, the reference must meet the following requirements:</p> <p>(1) the reference must be truthful and verifiable and may not be misleading in violation of Rule 7.1;</p> <p>(2) the reference must state that the Supreme Court of Illinois does not recognize certifications of specialties in the practice of law and that the certificate, award or recognition is not a requirement to practice law in Illinois.”</p>
<p>IN Effective 1/1/05</p>	<p>title is: Communication of Specialty Practice</p> <p>When the communication otherwise meets the requirements of Rules, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.5, a lawyer may:</p> <p>(a) communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law, but may not express or imply any particular expertise except as otherwise provided in Rule 7.4(b);</p> <p>(b) communicate that the lawyer is certified as a specialist in a field of practice when the certification and communication are authorized under Admission and Discipline Rule 30.</p> <p>(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), a lawyer admitted to engage in patent practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office may use the designation “Patent Attorney” or a substantially similar designation, and a lawyer engaged in Admiralty practice may use the designation “Admiralty,” “Proctor in Admiralty” or a substantially similar designation.</p>
<p>IA Effective 7/1/05</p>	<p>(a) A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer practices in or limits the lawyer’s practice to certain fields of law as authorized by this rule. Subject to the exceptions and requirements of this rule, a lawyer may identify or describe the lawyer’s practice by reference to the following fields of practice: Administrative Law;Adoption Law;Agricultural Law;Alternate Dispute Resolution;Antitrust & Trade Regulation;Appellate Practice;Aviation & Aerospace;Banking Law;Bankruptcy;Business Law;Civil Rights & Discrimination;Collections Law;Commercial Law;Communications Law;Constitutional Law;Construction Law;Contracts;Corporate Law;Criminal Law;Debtor and Creditor;Education Law;Elder Law;Election, Campaign & Political;Eminent Domain;Employee Benefits;Employment Law;Energy;Entertainment & Sports;Environmental Law;Family Law;Finance;Franchise Law;Government;Government Contracts;Health Care;Immigration;Indians & Native Populations;Information Technology Law;Insurance;Intellectual Property;International Law;International Trade;Investments;Labor Law;Legal Malpractice;Litigation;Media Law;Medical Malpractice;Mergers & Acquisitions;Military Law;Municipal Law;Natural Resources;Occupational Safety & Health;Pension & Profit Sharing Law;Personal Injury;Product Liability;Professional Liability;Public</p>

	<p>Utility Law;Real Estate;Securities;Social Security Law;Taxation;Tax Returns;Technology and Science;Toxic Torts;Trademarks & Copyright Law;Transportation;Trial Law;Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning & Probate Law;Workers' Compensation;Zoning, Planning & Land Use Any member of the bar desiring to expand this list may file an application with the supreme court specifying the requested change.</p> <p>In describing the field of practice the lawyer may use the suffix "law," "lawyer," "matters," "cases," or "litigation."</p> <p>(b) A lawyer admitted to engage in patent practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office may use the designation "Patents," "Patent Attorney," "Patent Lawyer," or "Registered Patent Attorney."</p> <p>(c) A lawyer engaged in Admiralty practice may use the designation "Admiralty," "Proctor in Admiralty," or a substantially similar designation.</p> <p>(d) A lawyer shall not state or imply that a lawyer is certified as a specialist in a particular field of law, unless:</p> <p>(1) the lawyer has been certified as a specialist by an organization that has been approved by the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board; and</p> <p>(2) the name of the certifying organization is clearly identified in the communication.</p> <p>(e) Prior to publicly describing one's practice as permitted in paragraph (a) and (c), a lawyer shall comply with the following prerequisites:</p> <p>(1) For all fields of practice designated, a lawyer must have devoted the greater of 100 hours or 10 percent of the lawyer's time spent in the actual practice of law to each indicated field of practice for the preceding calendar year. In addition, the lawyer must have completed at least ten hours of accredited continuing legal education courses of study in each indicated field of practice during the preceding calendar year.</p> <p>(2) A lawyer who wishes to use the terms "practice limited to . . ." or "practicing primarily in . . ." must have devoted the greater of 400 hours or 40 percent of the lawyer's time spent in the actual practice of law to each separate indicated field of practice for the preceding calendar year. In addition, the lawyer must have completed at least fifteen hours of accredited continuing legal education courses of study in each separate indicated field of practice during the preceding calendar year.</p> <p>Prior to communication of a description or indication of limitation of practice, a lawyer shall report the lawyer's compliance with the eligibility requirements of this paragraph each year to the Commission on Continuing Legal Education. <i>See Iowa Ct. R. 41.9.</i></p> <p>(f) A lawyer describing the lawyer's practice as "General practice including but not limited to" followed by one or more fields of practice descriptions set forth in this rule need not comply with the eligibility requirements of paragraph (e).</p>
<p>KS Effective 7/1/07</p>	<p>Same as MR</p>
<p>KY</p>	<p>KY Rule 7.40 is similar to MR Rule 7.4;</p>

<p>Effective 7/15/09</p>	<p>Deletes “and Specialization” from title; First paragraph is similar to MR (a) but adds to end: <i>A lawyer who concentrates in, limits his or her practice to, or wishes to announce a willingness to accept cases in a particular field may advertise or publicly state that information in any manner otherwise permitted by these Rules. Any such advertisement or statement shall be strictly factual and shall not contain any form of the words “certified”, “specialist”, “expert”, or “authority”, except as follows:</i></p> <p>(1) is the same as MR (b); (2) is similar to MR (c) but replaces “engaged in Admiralty practice” with “certified by an appropriate governmental agency;” (3) is equivalent to MR (d) but changes wording to: (3) A lawyer may state or imply that he or she is “certified”, a “specialist”, an “expert” or “authority” in a particular field of law only if: (3)(a) is similar to MR (d)(1) but replaces language following “state authority or” with: “by a national organization that the attorney demonstrates is qualified to grant such certification to attorneys who meet objective and consistently applied standards relevant to practice in a particular area of the law; and;” (3)(b) is the same as MR (d)(2); Adds: (3)(c) <i>if the lawyer is licensed to practice law in Kentucky, the communication must state that Kentucky does not certify specialties in legal fields. The communication may occur only for as long as the lawyer remains so certified and in good standing.</i></p>
<p>LA Effective 3/1/04</p>	<p>Did not change title Rule states only: A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is certified, or is a specialist or an expert, in a particular area of law, unless such certification specialization or expertise has been recognized or approved in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization.</p>
<p>ME Effective 8/1/09</p>	<p>(a) Changes language after “fields of law” to “concentrate or specialize in particular fields of law;” (d)(1) changes language after “state authority or” to “that has been accredited by the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar; and.”</p>
<p>MD Effective 7/1/05</p>	<p>Did not add “and Specialization” to title. (a): adds at the end: “subject to the requirements of Rule 7.1. A lawyer shall not hold himself or herself out publicly as a specialist.” does not include MR (c) or (d)</p>
<p>MA Rules effective 9/1/08</p>	<p>Deletes “and Specialization” from title;” Changes language throughout: (a) <i>Lawyers may hold themselves out publicly as specialists in particular services, fields, and areas of law if the holding out does not include a false or misleading communication. Such holding out includes</i> (1) <i>a statement that the lawyer concentrates in, specializes in, is certified in, has expertise in, or limits practice to a particular service, field, or area of law,</i> (2) <i>directory listings, including electronic, computer-accessed or other</i></p>

	<p><i>similar types of directory listings, by particular service, field, or area of law, and</i></p> <p><i>(3) any other association of the lawyer's name with a particular service, field, or area of law.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Lawyers who hold themselves out as "certified" in a particular service, field, or area of law must name the certifying organization and must state that the certifying organization is "a private organization, whose standards for certification are not regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," if that is the case, or, if the certifying organization is a governmental body, must name the governmental body.</i></p> <p><i>(c) Except as provided in this paragraph, lawyers who associate their names with a particular service, field, or area of law imply an expertise and shall be held to the standard of performance of specialists in that particular service, field, or area. Lawyers may limit responsibility with respect to a particular service, field, or area of law to the standard of an ordinary lawyer by holding themselves out in a fashion that does not imply expertise, such as by advertising that they "handle" or "welcome" cases, "but are not specialists in" a specific service, field, or area of law.</i></p>
<p>MI* Rules effective 10/1/88</p> <p>New Proposed 11/24/09</p>	<p><i>*Has not amended Rule since the most recent amendments to the ABA Model Rules</i></p> <p>Deletes “and Specialization” in title; <i>A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law.</i></p> <p>Same as 1988 Rule.</p>
<p>MN Effective 10/1/05</p>	<p>(c): replaces “has been” with “is”</p>
<p>MS Effective 11/3/05</p>	<p>See 7.6 for MS version of MR 7.4</p> <p>Legal Service Information</p> <p>(a) Each lawyer or law firm that advertises his, her or its availability to provide legal services shall have available in written form for delivery to any potential client:</p> <p>(1) A factual statement detailing the background, training and experience of each lawyer or law firm.</p> <p>(2) If the lawyer or law firm claims special expertise in the representation of clients in special matters or publicly limits the lawyer's or law firm's practice to special types of cases or clients, the written information shall set forth the factual details of the lawyer's experience, expertise, background, and training in such matters.</p> <p>Further, any advertisement or written communication shall advise any potential client of the availability of the above information by prominently displaying in all such advertisements and communications the following notice: FREE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.</p> <p>(b) Whenever a potential client shall request information regarding a lawyer or law firm for the purpose of making a decision regarding employment of the lawyer or law firm:</p>

	<p>(1) The lawyer or law firm shall promptly furnish (by mail if requested) the written information described in paragraph (a) of this Rule.</p> <p>(2) The lawyer or law firm may furnish such additional factual information regarding the law firm deemed valuable to assist the client.</p> <p>(c) A copy of all information furnished to clients by reason of this Rule shall be retained by the lawyer or law firm for a period of five years after the last regular use of the information.</p> <p>(d) Any factual statement contained in any advertisement or written communication or any information furnished to a prospective client under this Rule shall not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Be directly or inherently false or misleading; (2) Be potentially false or misleading; (3) Fail to disclose material information necessary to prevent the information supplied from being actually or potentially false or misleading; (4) Be unsubstantiated in fact; or (5) Be unfair or deceptive. <p>(e) Upon reasonable request by The Mississippi Bar, a lawyer shall promptly provide proof that any statement or claim made in any advertisement or written communication, as well as the information furnished to a prospective client as authorized or required by these Rules, is in compliance with paragraph (d) above.</p> <p>(f) A statement and any information furnished to a prospective client, as authorized by paragraph (a) of this Rule, that a lawyer or law firm will represent a client in a particular type of matter, without appropriate qualification, shall be presumed to be misleading if the lawyer reasonably believes that a lawyer or law firm not associated with the originally retained lawyer or law firm will be associated or act as primary counsel in representing the client. In determining whether the statement is misleading in this respect, the history of prior conduct by the lawyer in similar matters may be considered.</p>
<p>MO Effective 7/1/07</p>	<p>First paragraph is similar to MR (a) but adds: “Any such communication shall conform to the requirements of Rule 4-7.1. Except as provided in Rule 4-7.4(a) and (b), a lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist unless the communication contains a disclaimer that neither the Supreme Court of Missouri nor The Missouri Bar reviews or approves certifying organizations or specialist designations;”</p> <p>Does not adopt (d).</p>
<p>MT Effective 4/1/04</p>	<p>adds at the end of (a): <u>”A lawyer may also communicate that his/her practice is limited to or concentrated in a particular field of law, if such communication does not imply an unwarranted expertise in the field so as to be false or misleading under Rule 7.1.”</u></p>
<p>NE Effective 9/1/05</p>	<p>Same as MR</p>
<p>NV Effective 5/1/06</p>	<p>Communication of Fields of Practice, Specialization, and Limited Practice.</p> <p>(a) A lawyer may communicate that the lawyer is a specialist or expert or that he or she practices in particular fields of law, provided the lawyer complies with this Rule. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit communication of fields of practice unless the communication is false or misleading.</p>

(b) Patent law. A lawyer admitted to engage in patent practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office may use the designation “Patent Attorney” or a substantially similar designation.

(c) Admiralty law. A lawyer engaged in admiralty practice may use the designation “Admiralty,” “Proctor in Admiralty” or a substantially similar designation.

(d) Specialist or expert. In addition to the designations permitted by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule, a lawyer may communicate that he or she is a specialist or expert in a particular field of law if the lawyer complies with the provisions of this paragraph.

(1) Certification. The lawyer must be certified as a specialist or expert by an organization that has been approved under Rule 7.4A.

(2) Practice hours; CLE; liability coverage; reporting. The lawyer must meet the following requirements for practice hours devoted to each field of specialization, continuing legal education in each field of specialization, and professional liability coverage:

(i) The lawyer shall have devoted at least one-third of his or her practice to each designated field of specialization for each of the preceding 2 calendar years.

(ii) The lawyer shall have completed 10 hours of accredited continuing legal education in each designated field of specialization of practice during the preceding calendar year. The carry-forward and exemption provisions of Supreme Court Rules 210 and 214 do not apply. In reporting under subparagraph (iv), the lawyer shall identify the specific courses and hours that apply to each designated field of specialization.

(iii) The lawyer shall carry a minimum of \$500,000 in professional liability insurance, with the exception of lawyers who practice exclusively in public law. The lawyer shall provide proof of liability coverage to the state bar as part of the reporting requirement under subparagraph (iv).

(iv) The lawyer shall submit written confirmation annually to the state bar and board of continuing legal education demonstrating that the lawyer has complied with these requirements. The report shall be public information.

(3) Registration with state bar. The lawyer must file a registration of specialty, along with a \$250 fee, with the executive director of the state bar on a form supplied by the state bar. The form shall include attestation of compliance with paragraph (d)(2) for each specialty registered.

(i) Annual renewal. A lawyer registered under this Rule must renew the registration annually by completing a renewal form provided by the state bar, paying a \$250 renewal fee, and providing current information as required under paragraph (d)(2) for each specialty registered. The lawyer must submit the renewal form to the executive director of the state bar on or before the anniversary date of the initial filing of the registration of specialty with the state bar.

(ii) Registration of multiple specialties. A lawyer may include more than one specialty on the initial registration or include additional specialties with the annual renewal without additional charge. Additional specialties added at any other time will be assessed a one-time \$50 processing fee.

(4) Revocation and reinstatement. The board of governors shall establish rules and procedures governing administrative revocation and reinstatement of the right to

	<p>communicate a specialty for failure to pay the fees set forth in paragraph (d)(3), including reasonable processing fees for late payment and reinstatement.</p> <p>(5) Advertising. A lawyer certified as a specialist under this Rule may advertise the certification during such time as the lawyer’s certification and the state bar’s approval of the certifying organization are both in effect. Advertising by a lawyer regarding the lawyer’s certification under this Rule shall comply with Rules 7.1 and 7.2 and shall clearly identify the name of the certifying organization.</p> <p>(e) Temporary exemption from CLE requirements. The board of governors or its designee may grant a member’s request for temporary exemption from completion of the specific continuing legal education requirements imposed by this Rule for exceptional, extreme, and undue hardship unique to the member.</p> <p>(f) Extension to complete CLE requirements. If a lawyer is unable to complete the hours of accredited continuing legal education during the preceding calendar year as required by this Rule, the lawyer may apply to the board of continuing legal education for an extension of time in which to complete the hours. For good cause the board may extend the time not more than 6 months.</p> <p>(g) Records. A lawyer who communicates a specialty pursuant to this Rule shall keep time records to demonstrate compliance with paragraph (d)(2). Such records shall be available to the State Bar of Nevada and the board of continuing legal education on request.</p> <p>(h) Guidelines. The board of governors of the state bar shall be authorized to formulate and publish a set of guidelines to aid members of the state bar in complying with the requirements of this Rule.</p> <p>(i) Law lists and legal directories. This Rule does not apply to listings placed by a lawyer or law firm in reputable law lists and legal directories that are primarily addressed to lawyers.</p>
<p>NH Effective 1/1/08</p>	<p>First paragraph is similar to MR (a) but adds to end: “A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist except as follows;”</p> <p>(a) is the same as MR (b); (b) is the same as MR (c);</p> <p>Adds:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(c) a lawyer who is certified as a specialist in a particular field of law by an organization that has been accredited by the American Bar Association may hold himself or herself out as a specialist certified by such organization. Does not adopt MR (d).</i></p>
<p>NJ Effective 1/1/04</p>	<p>Title: Replaces “Specialization” with “Certification.”</p> <p>(a): adds to end (similar to former Rule): “A lawyer may not, however, state or imply that the lawyer has been recognized or certified as a specialist in a particular field of law except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule.”</p> <p>(d): A lawyer may communicate that the lawyer has been certified as a specialist or certified in a field of practice only when the communication is not false or misleading, states the name of the certifying organization, and states that the certification has been granted by the Supreme Court of New Jersey or by an organization that has been approved by the American Bar Association. If the certification has been granted by an organization that has not been approved, or has been denied approval, by the Supreme Court of New Jersey or the American Bar</p>

	Association, the absence or denial of such approval shall be clearly identified in each such communication by the lawyer.
NM Effective 11/2/09	<p>Changed to Rule 16-704;</p> <p>(a) Renamed to Paragraph “A. Communication of fields of practice;”</p> <p>(b) Renamed to Paragraph “B. Patent practice;”</p> <p>(c) Renamed to Paragraph “C. Admiralty practice;”</p> <p>(d) Renamed to Paragraph, “D. Certification by organization;”</p> <p>(d)(1) Adds, after “as a specialist by:” “the New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization;” Changes “state authority or that has been accredited” to “authority of another state, or by an organization that has been accredited.”</p>
NY Effective 4/1/09	<p>Changes title to “Identification of Practice and Speciality;”</p> <p>Replaces MR (a) with:</p> <p><i>(a) A lawyer or law firm may publicly identify one or more areas of law in which the lawyer or the law firm practices, or may state that the practice of the lawyer or law firm is limited to one or more areas of law, provided that the lawyer or law firm shall not state that the lawyer or law firm is a specialist or specializes in a particular field of law, except as provided in Rule 7.4(c).</i></p> <p>Replaces MR (c) with:</p> <p><i>(c) A lawyer may state that the lawyer has been recognized or certified as a specialist only as follows:</i></p> <p><i>(1) A lawyer who is certified as a specialist in a particular area of law or law practice by a private organization approved for that purpose by the American Bar Association may state the fact of certification if, in conjunction therewith, the certifying organization is identified and the following statement is prominently made: “The [name of the private certifying organization] is not affiliated with any governmental authority. Certification is not a requirement for the practice of law in the State of New York and does not necessarily indicate greater competence than other attorneys experienced in this field of law;”</i></p> <p><i>(2) A lawyer who is certified as a specialist in a particular area of law or law practice by the authority having jurisdiction over specialization under the laws of another state or territory may state the fact of certification if, in conjunction therewith, the certifying state or territory is identified and the following statement is prominently made: “Certification granted by the [identify state or territory] is not recognized by any governmental authority within the State of New York. Certification is not a requirement for the practice of law in the State of New York and does not necessarily indicate greater competence than other attorneys experienced in this field of law.”</i></p>
NC Effective 3/1/03	<p>Did not adopt MR (b) and (c)</p> <p>(b): same as MR (d) but replaces “particular field of law” with “field of practice”</p> <p>(b)(1) the certification was granted by the North Carolina State Bar;</p> <p>(b)(2) the certification was granted by an organization that is accredited by the North Carolina State Bar; or</p> <p>(b)(3) the certification was granted by an organization that is accredited by the</p>

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	American Bar Association under procedures and criteria endorsed by the North Carolina State Bar; and (b)(4): same as MR (d)(2)
ND Effective 8/1/06	Title: doesn't include "Specialization" First paragraph: same as former MR but changes end to "the lawyer is a specialist in a particular field of law except as follows" (c), same as former MR but changes second sentence "The communication need not contain such a statement if the named organization has been accredited by the American Bar Association or the lawyer has successfully completed a certification program sponsored by a state bar association."
OH Effective 2/1/07	(a): adds to end "or limits his or her practice to or concentrates in particular fields of law" Adds (c) A lawyer engaged in trademark practice may use the designation "Trademarks," "Trademark Attorney," or a substantially similar designation. (d): same as MR (c) (e): same as MR (d) but adds "both of the following apply" to end (e)(1): same as MR (d)(1) but replaces material after first "by" with "the Supreme Court Commission on Certification of Attorneys as Specialists" (e)(2): same as MR (d)(2)
OK Effective 1/1/08	Changes "Specialization" in title to "Certification;" (a) Adds clause, "by advertisement or otherwise," after "a lawyer may" and adds to end: "or limits his practice to or concentrates in particular fields of law;" (b) is the same as MR (d); (b)(1) is the same as MR (b); (b)(2) is the same as MR (c); (b)(3) is equivalent to MR (d)(1) but changes language to: <i>(3) a lawyer who is certified as a specialist in a particular field of law or law practice by the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma may communicate that fact, but only in accordance with the rules prescribed by that Court; and</i> Adds: <i>(b)(4) a lawyer who is certified as a specialist in a particular field of law or law practice by the official licensing authority of another state in which the lawyer is licensed may communicate that fact, but only in accordance with all rules and requirements of such state's licensing authority, and provided that the lawyer also communicates that such certification is not recognized by the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma.</i>
OR Effective 12/1/06	Reserved
PA Effective 7/1/06	(a)(1) is MR (b) (a)(2) is MR (c) (a)(3) and (a)(4) replace MR (d): (a)(3) a lawyer who has been certified by an organization approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a certifying organization in accordance with paragraph (b) may advertise the certification during such time as the certification of the lawyer and the approval of the organization are both in effect;

	<p>(a)(4) a lawyer may communicate that the lawyer is certified in a field of practice only when that communication is not false or misleading and that certification is granted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.</p> <p>adds as (b): Upon recommendation of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania may approve for purposes of paragraph (a) an organization that certifies lawyers, if the Court finds that:</p> <p>(1) advertising by a lawyer of certification by the certifying organization will provide meaningful information, which is not false, misleading or deceptive, for use of the public in selecting or retaining a lawyer; and</p> <p>(2) certification by the organization is available to all lawyers who meet objective and consistently applied standards relevant to practice in the area of the law to which the certification relates.</p> <p>The approval of the certifying organization shall be for such period not longer than five (5) years as the Court shall order, and may be renewed upon recommendation of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.</p>
<p>RI Effective 4/15/07</p>	<p>Adds:</p> <p><i>(d)(3) the lawyer also includes, as part of the same communication, the disclaimer that:</i></p> <p><i>“The Rhode Island Supreme Court licenses all lawyers in the general practice of law. The court does not license or certify any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any particular field of practice.”</i></p>
<p>SC Effective 10/1/05</p>	<p>replaces MR (a) with : A lawyer who is certified under the Rule on Lawyer Competence, Rule 408, SCACR, is entitled to advertise or state publicly in any manner otherwise permitted by these rules that the lawyer is certified as a specialist in the pertinent specialty field by the Supreme Court of South Carolina.</p> <p>inserts as (b): A lawyer who is not certified as a specialist but who concentrates in, limits his or her practice to, or wishes to announce a willingness to accept cases in a particular field may so advertise or publicly state in any manner otherwise permitted by these rules. To avoid confusing or misleading the public and to protect the objectives of the South Carolina certified specialization program, any such advertisement or statements shall be strictly factual and shall not contain any form of the words “certified,” “specialist,” “expert,” or “authority” except as permitted by Rule 7.4(d).</p> <p>(c): same as MR (b). Adds second sentence: A lawyer engaged in the trademark practice may use the designation “trademarks,” “trademark attorney,” or “trademark lawyer” or any combination of those terms.</p> <p>(d): same as MR (c).</p>
<p>SD Effective 1/1/04</p>	<p>Replaces MR (a) with an introductory section. The first sentence of the introduction is the same as MR (a). It then adds: If a lawyer practices only in certain fields, or will not accept matters except in such fields, the lawyer is permitted so to indicate. A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist except as follows:</p> <p>(a) is the same as MR (b)</p> <p>(b) is the same as MR (c)</p> <p>adds as (c): If a lawyer or firm practices in only certain fields and desires to advertise such limitations in the yellow pages of the telephone directory any such advertising must be accompanied by the following disclaimer appearing in a prominent and</p>

	<p>conspicuous manner in such advertising or on the same page as the advertising:</p> <p>(1) Such certification is granted by an organization which has been approved by the appropriate regulatory authority to grant such certification; or</p> <p>(2) Such certification is granted by an organization that has not yet been approved by, or has been denied the approval available from the appropriate regulatory authority, and the absence or denial of approval is clearly stated in the communication, and in any advertising subject to Rule 7.2, such statement appears in the same sentence that communicates the certification.</p> <p>adds as (d): Pursuant to subsection (c)(1), the South Dakota Supreme Court hereby designates the American Bar Association as the appropriate regulatory authority to accredit specialty certification programs according to such standards and criteria as the American Bar Association may from time to time establish for accreditation of specialty programs.</p> <p>(e) is the same as MR (d)</p>
<p>TN Effective 1/1/2011</p>	<p>Adds to beginning: "Subject to the requirements of RPCs 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3;"</p> <p>Replaces (b) with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Except as permitted by paragraphs (c) and (d), a lawyer shall not state that the lawyer is a specialist, specializes, or is certified or recognized as a specialist in a particular field of law.</i></p> <p>(c) is the same as MR (b);</p> <p>Replaces (d) with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>A lawyer who has been certified as a specialist in a field of law by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization may state that the lawyer "is certified as a specialist in [field of law] by the Tennessee Commission on C.L.E. and Specialization." A lawyer so certified may also state that the lawyer is certified as a specialist in that field of law by an organization recognized or accredited by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization as complying with its requirements, provided the statement is made in the following format: "[Lawyer] is certified as a specialist in [field of law] by [organization]."</i></p>
<p>TX* Effective 3/1/05</p>	<p><i>*Has not amended Rule since the most recent amendments to the ABA Model Rules</i></p> <p>Does not have.</p>
<p>UT Effective 11/1/05</p>	<p>Same as MR</p>
<p>VT Effective 9/1/09</p>	<p>(d) Changes "by an organization" to "by a named organization;" Deletes "that has been approved...Bar Association; and;" Adds after "named organization:" "provided that the communication clearly states that there is no procedure in Vermont for approving certifying organizations unless the named organization has been accredited by the American Bar Association to certify lawyers as specialists in a particular field of law; and."</p>
<p>VA Effective</p>	<p>Title: replaces "Specialization" with "Certification"</p> <p>Lawyers may state, announce or hold themselves out as limiting their practice in a</p>

1/1/04	<p>particular area or field of law so long as the communication of such limitation of practice is in accordance with the standards of this Rule, Rule 7.1, Rule 7.2, and Rule 7.3, as appropriate. A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer has been recognized or certified as a specialist in a particular field of law except as follows:</p> <p>(a) and (b): same as MR (b) and (c)</p> <p>(c) A lawyer who has been certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia as a specialist in some capacity may use the designation of being so certified, e.g., “certified mediator” or a substantially similar designation;</p> <p>(d) A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer has been certified as a specialist in a field of law by a named organization, provided that the communication clearly states that there is no procedure in the Commonwealth of Virginia for approving certifying organizations.</p>
WA Effective 9/1/06	<p>(d) A lawyer shall not state or imply that a lawyer is a specialist in a particular field of law, except upon issuance of an identifying certificate, award, or recognition by a group, organization, or association, a lawyer may use the terms “certified”, “specialist”, “expert”, or any other similar term to describe his or her qualifications as a lawyer or his or her qualifications in any subspecialty of the law. If the terms are used to identify any certificate, award, or recognition by any group, organization, or association, the reference must:</p> <p>(1) be truthful and verifiable and otherwise comply with Rule 7.1;</p> <p>(2) identify the certifying group, organization, or association; and</p> <p>(3) state that the Supreme Court of Washington does not recognize the certification of specialties in the practice of law and that the certificate, award, or recognition is not a requirement to practice law in the state of Washington.</p>
WV* Effective 1/1/89	<p><i>*Has not amended Rule since the most recent amendments to the ABA Model Rules</i></p> <p>Deletes “and Specialization” from title;</p> <p><i>A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law. A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is a specialist except as follows:</i></p> <p><i>(a) a lawyer admitted to engage in patent practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office may use the designation “Patent Attorney” or a substantially similar designation;</i></p> <p><i>(b) a lawyer engaged in Admiralty practice may use the designation “Admiralty,” “Proctor in Admiralty” or a substantially similar designation.</i></p>
WI Effective 7/1/07	<p>Title: has former MR</p>
WY Effective 7/1/06	<p>Title: does not include “Specialization”</p> <p>(d)(1): replaces language after “approved” with “by the Wyoming State Bar”</p>

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Association. The charts are current as of the date shown on each. A jurisdiction may have amended its rules or proposals since the time its chart was created. If you are aware of any inaccuracies in the charts, please send your corrections or additions and the source of that information to John Holtaway, (312) 988-5298, jholtaway@staff.abanet.org.