

OHIO

The Commission is governed by Rule XV of the Ohio Rules for the Government of the Bar. The rule in its entirety is as follows:

RULE XV. SUPREME COURT COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Section 1. Creation of Commission; Purpose.

(A) There shall be a Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, which shall have the duties set forth in this rule.

(B) The Commission is created for the purpose of promoting professionalism among attorneys admitted to the practice of law in Ohio. Professionalism connotes adherence by attorneys in their relations with judges, colleagues, clients, employees, and the public to aspirational standards of conduct. The Commission shall devote its attention to the law as a profession and to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and honor among members of the profession.

Section 2. Membership of the Commission.

(A) The Commission shall consist of fifteen members appointed as follows:

- (1) Five judges appointed by the Supreme Court;
- (2) Six attorneys admitted to the practice of law in Ohio for at least six years, three of whom shall be appointed by the Ohio Metropolitan Bar Association Consortium and three of whom shall be appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association;
- (3) Two law school administrators or faculty, each of whom shall be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio for at least six years and employed full-time by a different law school in Ohio, appointed by the Supreme Court;
- (4) Two persons who are not admitted to the practice of law in any state, appointed by the Supreme Court.

(B)(1) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, members of the Commission shall serve three year terms beginning on the first day of January. Members shall be eligible for reappointment, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of three years.

(2) Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term. If an attorney member no longer practices in Ohio, if a judge member leaves office, or if a law school administrator or faculty no longer is employed full-time by a law school in Ohio, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.

(3) The Supreme Court shall appoint one member of the Commission as chair and one member as vice-chair. The chair and vice-chair shall serve one year terms and may be reappointed, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of one year.

(C) Initial attorney appointments to the Commission after the effective date of this amendment shall be made as follows:

- (1) One attorney shall be appointed by the Ohio Metropolitan Bar Association Consortium to a term ending December 31, 2006;

(2) Attorney members serving on the Commission on the effective date of this amendment shall continue to serve on the Commission until the expiration of the term of office to which they were appointed and, upon expiration of their terms, may be reappointed pursuant to division (C)(2) of this rule if otherwise eligible for reappointment. Upon the first expiration of terms of office after the effective date of this amendment, appointments shall be made as follows:

(a) One attorney shall be appointed by the Ohio Metropolitan Bar Association Consortium, and one attorney shall be appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association, each member to serve a term commencing January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2007;

(b) One attorney shall be appointed by the Ohio Metropolitan Bar Association Consortium, and one attorney shall be appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association, each member to serve a term commencing January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2008;

(c) One attorney shall be appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association to a term commencing January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2009.

(3) If an attorney member serving on the Commission on the effective date of this amendment resigns from the Commission prior to the expiration of his or her current term of office, that member's successor shall be appointed to the balance of the unexpired term. Any appointments to fill vacancies under division (C)(3) of this rule shall be alternated by the Ohio Metropolitan Bar Association Consortium and the Ohio State Bar Association, with the Ohio State Bar Association making the first appointment to fill a vacancy.

(D) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Section 3. Duties of the Commission.

(A) The Commission shall do all of the following:

(1) Monitor and coordinate professionalism efforts and activities in Ohio courts, bar associations, and law schools and by other entities;

(2) Monitor professionalism efforts and activities in jurisdictions outside Ohio;

(3) Promote and sponsor state and local activities that emphasize and enhance professionalism;

(4) Develop and make available educational materials and other information for use by judicial organizations, bar associations, law schools, and other entities in emphasizing and enhancing professionalism;

(5) Assist in the development of law school orientation programs, law school curricula, new lawyer training programs, and continuing education programs that emphasize professionalism;

(6) Make recommendations to the Supreme Court, judicial organizations, bar associations, law schools, and other entities on methods by which professionalism can be enhanced.

(B) The Commission shall seek and may accept grants, contributions, and other awards to supplement funding provided by the Supreme Court.

Section 4. Staff and Budget.

In consultation with the administrative director, the Commission may employ staff appropriate to perform the duties of the Commission. On or before the first day of May each year, the Commission shall prepare and submit to the administrative director a proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on the ensuing first day of July. The budget shall be in the form prescribed by the administrative director, include a narrative of planned activities,

and identify additional sources of funding that the Commission intends to pursue to supplement funding being requested from the Supreme Court.

[Effective: September 1, 1992; amended effective September 1, 2004.]

Gov. Bar R. XV is posted at

<http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/Rules/govbar/govbar.pdf#Rule15>.