

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Supreme Court of South Carolina ORDER

Pursuant to Article V, § 4, of the South Carolina Constitution, the attached Rule 420, SCACR, Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession, is adopted and the attached Regulations for the Commission are approved.

Rule 420, SCACR, and the Regulations shall be effective immediately.

Columbia, South Carolina
November 22, 2000

RULE 420 CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON THE PROFESSION

(a) Purpose. The Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession is created in recognition of the need for the emphasis upon and encouragement of professionalism in the practice of law.

(b) Membership. The Commission's chairperson will be the Chief Justice or the Chief Justice's designee. The Chief Justice will appoint the Commission's other members as follows.

(1) State Judges: Two Circuit Court Judges, two Family Court Judges; and additional judges from either the state appellate or trial bench as the Chief Justice may deem necessary.

(2) Practicing Lawyers: Seven practicing lawyers, giving due regard for diversity of representation, nominated by the Board of Governors of the South Carolina Bar.

(3) Law School Faculty: Two members of the faculty of a South Carolina Law School.

(4) Instructor/Administrator: One person who is involved in the instruction of legal assistants, is involved in instruction at the undergraduate or technical college level, or serves as a law office administrator.

In addition, the Chief Justice may extend an invitation to serve on the Commission to a U.S. District Court Judge from the District of South Carolina.

(c) Responsibilities. The Commission shall ensure that the practice of law remains a high calling which serves clients and the public good. Its major responsibilities are:

(1) To monitor and coordinate South Carolina's professionalism efforts in the bar, the courts and the law school;

(2) To monitor professionalism efforts in other jurisdictions;

- (3) To plan and conduct symposiums, seminars, and other meetings on professionalism;
 - (4) To ensure the presence of a professionalism component in Bridge the Gap;
 - (5) To make recommendations to the Court, the South Carolina Bar, voluntary bar associations and the law school concerning additional means by which professionalism can be enhanced;
 - (6) To receive and administer grants and to make expenditures therefrom as the Commission shall deem prudent; and
 - (7) To receive and respond to inquiries concerning professionalism from the judiciary and the bar. The Commission shall have no authority to respond to complaints within the province of the Commission on Lawyer Conduct or the Commission on Judicial Conduct.
- (d) Commission Regulations.** Regulations may be promulgated by the Court or the Commission. Regulations will be effective only upon approval of the Court.

Last Amended by Order dated October 6, 2005 and effective immediately. This amendment revised Rule 402(b)(3) to allow membership on the Commission by Professors from any law school in the state.

REGULATIONS FOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON THE PROFESSION

I. SCOPE

These regulations implement Rule 420, SCACR. The purposes of the Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession shall be as set forth in Rule 420(c).

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. The membership is defined in Rule 420(b). Members will serve for a term of three years provided, however, that initial appointments and subsequent appointments may be for terms less than three years to accomplish staggered terms.

B. Termination of membership of a member other than upon completion of a term will be upon resignation of that member or upon vote of two-thirds of the other members and approval of the chairperson.

III. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS; STAFF

A. The chairperson may designate officers and committee chairpersons as needed.

B. The Commission is empowered to hire or contract for staff as it deems necessary.

IV. MEETINGS; QUORUM; VOTING

A. The Commission will meet at least twice annually at the call of the chairperson. Notice of the time and place will be given at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. The meeting may be convened by telephone conference call, videoconference or Internet conference.

B. At all meetings eight members will constitute a quorum. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order will govern proceedings.

C. Voting may be in person, by proxy, by letter, by telephone, by fax or by email. Any matter or proposition will not be action of the Commission without affirmative vote of at least seven members.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE; DISSOLUTION

A. These regulations will be effective upon adoption by the Court.

B. Upon dissolution of the Commission all assets will revert to the Supreme Court of South Carolina.