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Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 7:35 AM
To: Ethics2020
Subject: Admission to practice

It seems to me that with the multi-state bar exam the Commission should consider whether a national bar exam should be adopted so that an attorney is eligible to practice in any state. Any attorney would have to be competent and subject to discipline in which he/she engaged. That would eliminate the issues which differ from state to state of what constitutes the unauthorized practice of law and eliminate any differences in the adoption of rule 5.5 by the various states. As Maryland Bar Counsel I field at least 50 calls a year on this issue of what an attorney admitted in Maryland may do and calls from attorneys admitted elsewhere about what they can do for a Maryland client or Maryland legal matter. I would also urge the adoption of a rule mandating a written fee agreement with any engagement between an attorney and client and a required record-keeping rule which would be the same for all jurisdictions. I concur that there needs to be a uniform rule for the admission of an attorney admitted in a foreign country to practice in a state with specificity on what that attorney may do and how that attorney may identify himself/herself on letterhead and business cards. There also needs to be a uniform rule, if my earlier suggestion is not adopted, for in house counsel and whether there needs to be required registration of that attorney and any fee to be paid by that attorney. Admission pro hac vice fees differ from state to state and there should be some uniformity for that issue. You are free to use my name for these suggestions.

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