District of Columbia Court of Appeals



No. M-268-20

BEFORE: Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge; Glickman, Fisher, Thompson, Beckwith, Easterly, McLeese, and Deahl, Associate Judges.

ORDER and NOTICE

(FILED – February 14, 2020)

D.C. R. Prof. Conduct 6.5 addresses the application of conflict-of-interest rules to lawyers who are acting under the auspices of a program sponsored by a court or non-profit organization and who are providing "short-term limited legal services to client without expectation by either the client or the lawyer that the lawyer will provide continuing representation in the matter." Comment [1] to Rule 6.5 states that, "For the purposes of this rule, short-term limited legal services normally do not include appearing for a tribunal on behalf of a client."

Representatives of various pro bono service providers have indicated that comment [1] in its current form has presented an obstacle to the provision of certain forms of pro bono representation. The court is therefore considering whether to amend comment [1] to state that, "For the purposes of this rule, short-term limited legal services normally do not include appearing for a tribunal on behalf of a client *on more than a single date.*"

This notice is published to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit written comments concerning the amendment under consideration. Comments must be submitted by March 16, 2020. Comments may be submitted electronically to rules@dcappeals.gov, or in writing, addressed to the Clerk, D.C. Court of Appeals, 430 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. All comments submitted pursuant to this notice will be available to the public.

PER CURIAM