

## NOTICE

On June 15, 2012, the judges of the Superior Court adopted revisions to the Practice Book, including those found below. These revisions will be published in the Connecticut Law Journal and **become effective on January 1, 2013**. Additions are signified by underlining; deletions are signified by brackets.

### Sec. 2-15A. AUTHORIZED HOUSE COUNSEL

#### (a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to clarify the status of house counsel as authorized house counsel as defined herein, and to confirm that such counsel are subject to regulation by the judges of the superior court. Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter relating to admission to the bar, this section shall authorize attorneys licensed to practice in jurisdictions other than Connecticut to be permitted to undertake these activities, as defined herein, in Connecticut without the requirement of taking the bar examination so long as they are exclusively employed by an organization.

#### (b) Definitions

(1) Authorized House Counsel. An “authorized house counsel” is any person who:

(A) is a member in good standing of the entity governing the practice of law of each state (other than Connecticut) or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia or any foreign jurisdiction in which the member is licensed;

(B) has been certified on recommendation of the bar examining committee in accordance with this section;

(C) agrees to abide by the rules regulating members of the Connecticut bar and submit to the jurisdiction of the statewide grievance committee and the superior court; and

(D) is, at the date of application for registration under this rule, employed in the state of Connecticut by an organization or relocating to the state of Connecticut in furtherance of such employment within 3 months of such application under this section and receives or shall receive compensation for activities performed for that business organization.

(2) Organization. An “organization” for the purpose of this rule is a corporation, partnership, association, or employer sponsored benefit plan or other legal entity (taken together with its respective parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates) that is not itself engaged in the practice of law or the rendering of legal services outside such organization, whether for a fee or otherwise, and does not charge or collect a fee for the representation or advice other than to entities comprising such organization for the activities of the authorized house counsel.

#### (c) Activities

(1) Authorized Activities. An authorized house counsel, as an employee of an organization, may provide legal services in the state of Connecticut to the organization for which a registration pursuant to subsection (d) is effective, provided, however, that such activities shall be limited to:

(A) the giving of legal advice to the directors, officers, employees, trustees, and agents of the organization with respect to its business and affairs;

(B) negotiating and documenting all matters for the organization; and

(C) representation of the organization in its dealings with any administrative agency, tribunal or commission having jurisdiction; provided, however, authorized house counsel shall not be permitted to make appearances as counsel before any state or municipal administrative tribunal, agency, or commission, and shall not be permitted to make appearances in any court of this state, unless the attorney is specially admitted to appear in a case before such tribunal, agency, commission or court.

(2) Disclosure. Authorized house counsel shall not represent themselves to be members of the Connecticut bar or commissioners of the superior court licensed to practice law in this state. Such counsel may represent themselves as Connecticut authorized house counsel.

(3) Limitation on Representation. In no event shall the activities permitted hereunder include the individual or personal representation of any shareholder, owner, partner, officer, employee, servant, or agent in any matter or transaction or the giving of advice therefor unless otherwise permitted or authorized by law, code, or rule or as may be permitted by subsection (c)(1). Authorized house counsel shall not be permitted to prepare legal instruments or documents on behalf of anyone other than the organization employing the authorized house counsel.

(4) Limitation on Opinions to Third Parties. An authorized house counsel shall not express or render a legal judgment or opinion to be relied upon by any third person or party other than legal opinions rendered in connection with commercial, financial or other business transactions to which the authorized house counsel's employer organization is a party and in which the legal opinions have been requested from the authorized house counsel by another party to the transaction. Nothing in this subsection (c)(4) shall permit authorized house counsel to render legal opinions or advice in consumer transactions to customers of the organization employing the authorized house counsel.

(5) Pro Bono Legal Services. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, an authorized house counsel may participate in the provision of any and all legal services pro bono publico in Connecticut offered under the supervision of an organized legal aid society or state/local bar association project, or of a member of the Connecticut bar who is also working on the pro bono representation.

(d) Registration

(1) Filing with the Bar Examining Committee. The bar examining committee shall investigate whether the applicant is at least eighteen years of age and is of good moral character, consistent with the requirement of Section 2-8(3) regarding applicants for admission to the bar. In addition, the applicant shall file with the bar examining committee, and the committee shall consider, the following:

(A) a certificate from each entity governing the practice of law of a state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia or any foreign jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed to practice law certifying that the applicant is a member in good standing;

(B) a sworn statement by the applicant:

(i) that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys and Chapter 2 (Attorneys) of the Superior Court Rules, General Provisions, and will abide by the provisions thereof;

(ii) that the applicant submits to the jurisdiction of the statewide grievance committee and the superior court for disciplinary purposes, and authorizes notification to or from the entity governing the practice of law of each state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia in which the applicant is licensed to practice law of any disciplinary action taken against the applicant;

(iii) listing any jurisdiction in which the applicant is now or ever has been licensed to practice law; and

(iv) disclosing any disciplinary sanction or pending proceeding pertaining or relating to his or her license to practice law, including but not limited to reprimand, censure, suspension or disbarment, or has been placed on inactive status;

(C) a certificate from an organization certifying that it is qualified as set forth in subsection (b)(2); that it is aware that the applicant is not licensed to practice law in Connecticut; and that the applicant is employed or about to be employed in Connecticut by the organization as set forth in subsection (b)(1)(D);

(D) an appropriate application pursuant to the regulations of the bar examining committee;

(E) remittance of a filing fee to the bar examining committee as prescribed and set by that committee; and

(F) an affidavit from each of two members of the Connecticut bar, who have each been licensed to practice law in Connecticut for at least five years, certifying that the applicant is of good moral character and that the applicant is employed or will be employed by an organization as defined above in subsection (b)(2).

(2) Certification. Upon recommendation of the bar examining committee, the court may certify the applicant as authorized house counsel and shall cause notice of such certification to be published in the Connecticut Law Journal.

(3) Annual Client Security Fund Fee. Individuals certified pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of sections 2-68 and 2-70 of this chapter, including payment of the annual fee and shall pay any other fees imposed on attorneys by court rule.

(4) Annual Registration. Individuals certified pursuant to this section shall register annually with the statewide grievance committee in accordance with section 2-26 and section 2-27(d) of this chapter.

(e) Termination or Withdrawal of Registration

(1) Cessation of Authorization to Perform Services. Authorization to perform services under this rule shall cease upon the earliest of the following events:

(A) the termination or resignation of employment with the organization for which registration has been filed, provided, however, that if the authorized house counsel shall commence employment with another organization within 30 days of the termination or resignation, authorization to perform services under this rule shall continue upon the filing with the bar examining committee of a certificate as set forth in subsection (d)(1)(C);

(B) the withdrawal of registration by the authorized house counsel;

(C) the relocation of an authorized house counsel outside of Connecticut for a period greater than 180 consecutive days; or

(D) the failure of authorized house counsel to comply with any applicable provision of this rule.

Notice of one of the events set forth in subsections (e)(1)(A)-(C) or a new certificate as provided in subsection (e)(1)(A) must be filed with the bar examining committee by the authorized house counsel within 30 days after such action. Failure to provide such notice by the authorized house counsel shall be a basis for discipline pursuant to the Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys.

(2) Notice of Withdrawal of Authorization. Upon receipt of the notice required by subsection (e)(1), the bar examining committee shall forward a request to the statewide bar counsel that the authorization under this chapter be revoked. Notice of the revocation shall be mailed by the statewide bar counsel to the authorized house counsel and the organization employing the authorized house counsel.

(3) Reapplication. Nothing herein shall prevent an individual previously authorized as house counsel to reapply for authorization as set forth in subsection (d).

(f) Discipline

(1) Termination of Authorization by Court. In addition to any appropriate proceedings and discipline that may be imposed by the statewide grievance committee, the superior court may, at any time, with cause, terminate an authorized house counsel's registration, temporarily or permanently.

(2) Notification to Other States. The statewide bar counsel shall be authorized to notify each entity governing the practice of law in the state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, in which the authorized house counsel is licensed to practice law, of any disciplinary action against the authorized house counsel.

(g) Transition

(1) Preapplication Employment in Connecticut. The performance of an applicant's duties as an employee of an organization in Connecticut prior to the effective date of this rule shall not be grounds for the denial of registration of such applicant if application for registration is made within 6 months of the effective date of this rule.

(2) Immunity from Enforcement Action. An authorized house counsel who has been duly registered under this rule shall not be subject to enforcement action for the unlicensed practice of law for acting as counsel to an organization prior to the effective date of this rule.

Sec. 2-53. REINSTATEMENT AFTER SUSPENSION, DISBARMENT OR RESIGNATION

(a) No application for reinstatement or readmission shall be considered by the court unless the applicant, [inter alia] among other things, states under oath in the application that he or she has successfully fulfilled all conditions imposed on him or her as a part of the applicant's discipline. However, if an applicant asserts that a certain condition is impossible to fulfill, he or she may apply, stating that assertion and the basis therefor. It is the applicant's burden to prove at the hearing on reinstatement or readmission the impossibility of the certain condition. Any application for reinstatement or readmission to the bar shall contain a statement by the applicant indicating whether such applicant has previously applied for reinstatement or readmission and if so, when. The application shall be referred, by the court to which it is brought, to the standing committee on recommendations for admission to the bar that has jurisdiction over the judicial district court location in which the applicant was suspended or disbarred or resigned, and notice of the pendency of such application shall be given to the state's attorney of that judicial district, the chair of the grievance panel whose jurisdiction includes that judicial district court location, the statewide grievance committee, the office of the chief disciplinary counsel, the attorney or attorneys appointed by the court pursuant to Section 2-64, and to all complainants whose complaints against the attorney resulted in the discipline for

which the attorney was disbarred or suspended or resigned, and it shall also be published in the Connecticut Law Journal.

(b) The standing committee on recommendations shall investigate the application, hold hearings pertaining thereto and render a report with its recommendations to the court. It shall take all testimony at its hearings under oath and shall include in its report subordinate findings of facts and conclusions as well as its recommendation. The standing committee shall have a record made of its proceedings which shall include a copy of the application for reinstatement or readmission, a transcript of its hearings thereon, any exhibits received by the committee, any other documents considered by the committee in making its recommendations, and copies of all notices provided by the committee in accordance with this section.

(c) The court shall thereupon inform the chief justice of the supreme court of the pending application and report, and the chief justice shall designate two other judges of the superior court to sit with the judge presiding at the session. Such three judges, or a majority of them, shall determine whether the application should be granted.

(d) The standing committee shall notify the presiding judge, no later than fourteen days prior to the court hearing, if the committee will not be represented by counsel at the hearing and, upon such notification, the presiding judge may appoint, in his or her discretion, an attorney to review the issue of reinstatement and report his or her findings to the court. The attorney so appointed shall be compensated in accordance with a fee schedule approved by the executive committee of the superior court.

(e) The applicant shall pay to the [clerk of the superior court] bar examining committee \$200 and shall submit proof of such payment to the clerk of the superior court at the time [his or her] the application is filed with the court. This sum shall be expended in the manner provided by Section 2-22 of these rules. If the petition for readmission or reinstatement is denied, the reasons therefor shall be stated on the record or put in writing. The attorney may not reapply for six months following the denial.

(f) An attorney who has been suspended from the practice of law in this state for a period of one year or more shall be required to apply for reinstatement in accordance with this section, unless the court that imposed the discipline specifically provided in its order that such application is not required. An attorney who has been suspended for less than one year need not file an application for reinstatement, unless otherwise ordered by the court at the time the discipline was imposed.

(g) In no event shall an application for reinstatement by an attorney disbarred pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-47A be considered until after twelve years from the date of the order disbaring the attorney. No such application may be

granted unless the attorney provides satisfactory evidence that full restitution has been made of all sums found to be knowingly misappropriated.