You have asked the Committee to consider whether a letterhead is misleading where
the firm name consists of several names of the partners of the firm and a notation that the
partnership is by and between professional corporations, but does not include a specific
indication that the entity is a law firm. The appropriate and controlling disciplinary
rule relative to your inquiry is DR:2-102(A), which provides that a lawyer or law firm
may use or participate in the use of a professional card, announcement card, office sign,
letterheads, telephone and directory listing, law list, legal directory listing, or similar
professional notice or device unless it includes a statement or claim that it is false,
fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive. The Committee is concerned that the language "a
partnership of professional corporation" does not clearly identify the types of
corporations comprising the partnership. Therefore, the reader may be misled if, in fact,
certain of the corporation are organized for purposes other than the practice of law.
Disciplinary Rule 3-103 [DR:3-103] provides that a lawyer shall not form a partnership
with a nonlawyer or lay corporation if any of the activities of the partnership consist of
the practice of law.

The Committee is of the view that if, in fact, the partnership consists of separate legal
corporations in business for the practice of law, any communication to the public,
including letterhead, professional cards, announcement cards, office signs, telephone
directories, and law lists, should state that the partnership is so engaged. The Committee
believes a more appropriate disclaimer after the entity would be "a partnership of
professional legal corporations" which unequivocally identifies the entity.