

On September 3, 2014, the Committee on Lawyer Discipline (COLD) approved amendments to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-4.E of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Chairs and presidents of conferences of the Virginia State Bar serve one year as ex-officio members of Council. Paragraph 13-4.E as currently written requires such Council members to resign their positions on district committees to avoid conflicts in selection of new district committee members. The proposed amendment clarifies the issue and exempts the ex-officio members from having to resign from district committees.

13. PROCEDURE FOR DISCIPLINING, SUSPENDING, AND DISBARRING ATTORNEYS

* * *

13-4 ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES

* * *

E. Qualifications of Members. Before nominating any individual for membership on a District Committee, the Council members making such recommendation shall first determine that the nominee is willing to serve on the District Committee and will conscientiously discharge the responsibility as a member of the District Committee. Council members making the nominations shall also obtain a statement from the nominees, in writing, that the nominees are willing to serve on the District Committee, if elected. In order to be considered as a potential appointee to a District Committee, each potential appointee shall execute the following: (1) a waiver of confidentiality with respect to his or her Disciplinary Record and any pending Complaints and a release allowing production of his or her Disciplinary Record and any pending Complaints from any jurisdiction for purposes of the appointment process; and an authorization for the Bar to conduct a criminal records check of all jurisdictions for any conviction of a Crime and provide the results to the members of Council and the staff of the Bar for purposes of the appointment process. No member of Council shall be a member of a District Committee; however, this rule shall not apply to the chair or president of any conference of the Virginia State Bar, such as the Conference of Local Bar Associations, Diversity Conference, Senior Lawyers Conference, or Young Lawyers Conference, who are ex-officio members of Council. An ex-officio member of Council who is also a member of a District Committee shall not vote on the selection or confirmation of nominees for any District Committee.

* * *

Not later than **October 31, 2014**, any individual, business, or other entity may file or submit to Karen A. Gould, the Executive Director of the Virginia State Bar, a written comment in support of or in opposition to the proposed rule amendments.