

## Utah Ethics Opinions

1975.

### 23. USB EAOB Opinion No. 23

Utah State Bar

Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 23

Approved August 22, 1975

**Summary:** An attorney's announcement card may include past positions of an attorney but not the nature of his employment.

**Comments:** *But see In re Utah State Bar Petition*, 647 P.2d 991 (1982) which may have modified this opinion.

**Facts:** You have inquired concerning the propriety of an announcement card carrying on it the following language:

"(Formerly employed with the Property Management Section of the Real Estate Division of the Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.)"

**Opinion:** The matter to be controlled by DR 2-102(A) (2) as follows:

"(2) A brief professional announcement card stating new or changed associations or addresses, change of firm name, or similar matter pertaining to the professional office of a lawyer or law firm which may be mailed to lawyers, clients, former clients, personal friends, and relatives. It shall not state biographical data except to the extent reasonably necessary to identify the lawyer or to explain the change in his association, but it may state the immediate past position of the lawyer. It may give names and dates of predecessor firms in a continuing line of succession. It shall not state the nature of the practice except as permitted under DR 2-105." (emphasis added)

DR 2-105 has reference to limitation of practice and specialization and has no application to the facts of this matter.

The underscored language appears to be controlling. You could properly show on a card that you were formerly with the corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but you may not specify the nature of the practice in which you have been involved, i.e., Property Management Section of the Real Estate Division.

Support for this position is found in ABA Informal Opinion

1164 which holds that it would be proper for a former Assistant General Counsel of the International Air Transport Association and Senior Attorney, Air Transport Association, to state on an announcement card the fact of his immediate past position with the Air Transport Association, but limited him from stating his qualifications further.

Rule Cited:

DR 2-105