

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
WESLEY W. HORTON, CHAIR

In calendar year 2006, the committee received 20 written requests for informal opinions. The committee issued 16 opinions; others are pending decision or were resolved in early 2007. The opinions issued in 2006 will all be found in the 2006 supplement to the *Professional Responsibility Reference Guide*, issued by the CBA in 2007. Thanks are due to David Sheridan for his work on the index.

Committee members also handled numerous telephone inquiries throughout the year. I want to thank J.D. Moore and Vice Chair Wick Chambers for assisting me in fielding all these calls, many of which required quick and sensitive responses. I also want to thank our long-standing secretary, Charles Nessler, for his outstanding work, especially in keeping the chair in line and in preparing the thorough and readable minutes.

I want to pause to note the recent deaths of Ralph Elliot and Ray Green. Ralph was a member since the 1960s and was chair from 1980 to 1983. He was responsible for turning the committee into a much more scholarly organization by starting the issuance of informal opinions on a regular basis in addition to the infrequent formal opinions. Ralph was always a valued member of the committee and we miss him. Ray was also a member since the 1960s and was chair from 1986 to 1997, a record that I do not intend to break. Like Ralph, he also has always been a valued member and we miss him. It is fair to say that the committee is not the same without Ralph and Ray.

I have been chair since 1997. As the last paragraph hinted, I am calling it a day after ten years as chair. My goal in the late 1990s, in addition to responding to any inquiries, was to have the committee review and update as needed all of our formal and informal opinions back to the beginning of the committee in the 1950s. No sooner was this goal accomplished when the ABA recommended the massive model changes in Ethics 2000. We completed this review in 2003 and for the next three years our committee shepherded our recommendations through the Association, the Rules Committee and the Superior Court judges, largely unscathed. Finally, for the past year our committee has been explaining to the Bar what we and the judges have wrought. I am happy now to turn the reins over to a new chair, who presumably will find new dragons to slay.