AMENDMENTS TO THE

**OHIO RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The following amendments to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct (Prof. Cond. R. 8.2) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The history of these amendments is as follows:

April 14, 2014 Initial publication for comment

April 30, 2014 Final adoption by conference

June 1, 2014 Effective date of amendments

**OHIO RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**RULE 8.2: JUDICIAL OFFICIALS**

(a) A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer *knows* to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judicial officer, or candidate for election or appointment to judicial office.

(b) A lawyer who is a candidate for judicial office shall not violate the provisions of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct applicable to judicial candidates.

(c) A lawyer who is a retired or former judge or magistrate may use a title such as “justice,” “judge,” “magistrate,” “Honorable” or “Hon.” when the title is preceded or followed by the word “retired,” if the lawyer retired in good standing with the Supreme Court, or “former,” if the lawyer, due to the loss of an election, left judicial office in good standing with the Supreme Court.

(d) A lawyer who is a retired or former judge shall not state or imply that the lawyer’s former service as a judge enables the lawyer to improperly influence any person or entity, including a government agency or official, or to achieve results by means that violate the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.

**Comment**

[1] Assessments by lawyers are relied on in evaluating the professional or personal fitness of persons being considered for election or appointment to judicial office. Expressing honest and candid opinions on such matters contributes to improving the administration of justice. Conversely, false statements by a lawyer can unfairly undermine public confidence in the administration of justice.

[2] [RESERVED]

[3] To maintain the fair and independent administration of justice, lawyers are encouraged to continue traditional efforts to defend judges and courts unjustly criticized.

[4] This rule controls over any conflicts with Advisory Opinion 93-8 and Advisory Opinion 2013-3 of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline.

**FORM OF CITATION, EFFECTIVE DATE, APPLICATION**

**[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

(H) The Supreme Court of Ohio adopted amendments to Prof. Cond. Rule 8.2(c) and (d) and Comment [4] of the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct effective June 1, 2014.