

## FORMAL OPINION NO 2005-65

[REVISED 2015]

### Listing of Nonlawyer Personnel on Firm Letterhead

#### **Facts:**

Lawyer proposes to list nonlawyer personnel, together with the positions that those people hold, on Lawyer's letterhead (e.g., June Doe, Office Manager; John Doe, Legal Assistant).

#### **Question:**

May Lawyer do so?

#### **Conclusion:**

Yes, qualified.

#### **Discussion:**

Oregon RPC 7.5(a) provides:

A lawyer shall not use a firm name, letterhead or other professional designation that violates Rule 7.1. A trade name may be used by a lawyer in private practice if it does not imply a connection with a government agency or with a public or charitable legal services organization and is not otherwise in violation of Rule 7.1.

Oregon RPC 7.1(a) provides:

A lawyer shall not make a false or misleading communication about the lawyer or the lawyer's services. A communication is false or misleading if it contains a material misrepresentation of fact or law, or omits a fact necessary to make the statement considered as a whole not materially misleading.

As long as the proposed listings do not involve false or misleading communications, they are permissible.

**Approved by Board of Governors, February 2015.**

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COMMENT: For additional information on this general topic and related subjects, see *The Ethical Oregon Lawyer* § 2.5-1 to § 2.5-2 (firm names, letterhead, and professional notices) (OSB Legal Pubs 2015); ABA/BNA *Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct* 81:3001–81:3017 (2008); ABA Model RPC 7.1; and ABA Model RPC 7.5(a).