

## ETHICS OPINION 84-2

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A lawyer is a member of a municipal town council. At issue is whether the lawyer or his/her firm can undertake representation before various town agencies.

The Statewide Grievance Committee, in deciding that it is ethically improper for the lawyer or his/her firm to undertake such representation, specifically adopted the Connecticut Bar Association Committee on Professional Ethics Informal Opinions 80-2 and 80-7. In addition to DR 5-105, cited in Informal Opinion 80-2, the Committee considered EC 5-1 and EC 8-8. Also see Informal Opinion 83-30. The essence of the CBA Informal Opinions 80-2 and 80-7 are set forth below.

80-2

INFORMAL OPINION of the  
Committee on Professional Ethics

On July 16, 1979 you wrote the Committee on Professional Ethics requesting advice on what municipal representation your firm may undertake in light of the fact that your associate is an elected Councilman of the City of Bristol.

You specifically raised the question of whether your firm may handle negligence actions against the City, Zoning hearings, tax appeals, dealings with the Redevelopment Agency, or discussions with the Mayor concerning purchases of city property.

The Committee was of the opinion that your associate could not properly perform any of the indicated legal services. He would in fact and in appearance have a conflict between his duty to his client and his duty as an elected official of the City legislative body. DR 5-105 (d) extends to all members of the firm a disqualification applicable to one of its members or employees. Accordingly it is the opinion of the Committee that neither the firm nor \_\_\_\_\_ could undertake any representations discussed.

Very truly yours,

Committee on Professional Ethics  
by Karl Fleischmann, *Chairman*

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80-7

INFORMAL OPINION of the  
Committee on Professional Ethics

At its meeting of September 12, 1979 the Committee on Professional Ethics considered your request for an opinion which you had made under date of July 12.

It is the opinion of the Committee that a member of the Town Council may not represent clients before municipal zoning boards. This is so whether or not he abstains from action upon the appointment of alternate members of those boards.

Very truly yours,

Committee on Professional Ethics  
by Karl Fleischmann, *Chairman*

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