



Committee on Professional Ethics

Opinion #312 - 11/16/73 (43-73)

Topic: The use of the initials
P.C. in telephone directory
listings

Digest: A professional corporation
composed of lawyers must
use the initials "P.C." in
telephone directory listings.

Code: EC 2-11
DR 2-102(B)

QUESTION

May an attorney use the initials "P.C." (Professional Corporation) in telephone directory listings?

OPINION

Article 15 of the Business Corporation Law authorizes attorneys to organize a Professional Service Corporation. EC 2-11 provides that "a lawyer in private practice should practice only under his own name... or, if permitted by law, in the name of a professional legal corporation, which should be clearly designated as such."

DR 2-102(B) provides that "the name of a professional corporation or professional association may contain 'P.C.' or 'P.A.' or similar symbols indicating the nature of the organization..." BCL Section 1512(b) makes this a requirement.

It is, therefore, not improper for the corporate name to be used in telephone directory listings followed by the abbreviation "P.C."; indeed a corporation formed for the practice of law must indicate that it is a corporation by the use of the abbreviation "P.C." or "P.A." in all its listings. ABA 318 (1967).
