

# **Complaints Authorization Committee**

## ***Practice Standard***

### **Public Appearances and Public Statements**

*Complaints Authorization Committee Meeting April 30, 2001*

*Benchers' Notes June 2001*

The Complaints Authorization Committee reminds members that the Rule in chapter XVIII prescribes that members should engage in public appearances and public statements in conformity with the principles of the Code. The commentaries delineate the standard of conduct by which lawyers should govern themselves in their dealings with the media. David M. Brown, in his article *What Can Lawyers Say In Public*, *The Canadian Bar Review*, volume 78, numbers 3 and 4, examines the provincial rules of professional conduct which regulate public statements made by lawyers. Further, the article also examines those aspects of the law of defamation, contempt and fiduciary duty which form the legal framework for assessing the propriety of any public statement made by a lawyer during various stages of a lawsuit.

Members are also referred to chapter 5 of *Professional Conduct for Lawyers & Judges*, Beverly G. Smith, Fredericton, Maritime Law Book, 1998 and *A Lawyer's Guide to Managing the Media*, (1<sup>st</sup> edition), Mary Jolimore, Aurora: Canada Law Book, 2000. All noted references are available at the Law Library.