# Rule 3.9 Advocate in Nonadjudicative Proceedings

(Commission's Proposed Rule – Clean Version)

A lawyer communicating in a representative capacity with a legislative body or administrative agency in connection with a pending non-adjudicative matter or proceeding shall disclose that the appearance is in a representative capacity, except when the lawyer seeks information from an agency that is available to the public.

**Comment**

[1] In representation before non-judicial bodies such as legislatures, city councils, boards of supervisors, commissions, and administrative agencies acting in a legislative, administrative or ministerial capacity (including without limitation a quasi-judicial proceeding, an administrative action, a rate-making proceeding, and a quasi-legislative proceeding, see Government Code sections 11440.60, 82002(a),(b),(c)), lawyers present facts, formulate issues and advance arguments regarding the matters under consideration. These governmental bodies are entitled to know that the lawyer is appearing in a representative capacity. Ordinarily the client will consent to being identified, but if not, such as when the lawyer is appearing on behalf of an undisclosed principal, the governmental body at least knows that the lawyer is acting in a representative capacity as opposed to advancing the lawyer's personal opinion as a citizen.

[1A] Rule 3.9 does not apply to adjudicative proceedings before a tribunal. Court rules and other law require a lawyer, in making an appearance before a tribunal in a representative capacity, to identify the client or clients and provide other information required for communication with the tribunal or other parties.