

CHAPTER 43
LAWYER TRUST ACCOUNT COMMISSION

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CHAPTER 43 LAWYER TRUST ACCOUNT COMMISSION

Rule 43.1 Composition.

43.1(1) *Members.* The Lawyer Trust Account Commission shall consist of seven members, four of whom shall be members of the bar of Iowa having their principal offices in this state. Three members shall be residents of this state who are not lawyers.

43.1(2) *Appointment.* The members shall be appointed by the supreme court of Iowa.

43.1(3) *Terms.* The term of office shall be for three years except that two of the members first appointed shall serve for an initial term of one year and two of the members first appointed shall serve for an initial term of two years. Each member shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. No member may serve for longer than two successive terms and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

43.1(4) *Vacancies.* Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of a person to serve for the unexpired portion of the vacant term.

[Court Order December 28, 1984; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 43.2 Powers and duties.

43.2(1) *General.* The commission shall have general supervisory authority over the administration of these rules.

43.2(2) *Receipt and investment of funds.* The commission shall receive funds from lawyers' interest-bearing trust accounts and make appropriate temporary investments of such funds pending disbursement of them. The commission may also accept funds from other sources. All funds received shall be held by the commission as an agency of the supreme court.

43.2(3) *Disbursement of funds.* The commission shall disburse funds received as follows:

a. Such sums as are necessary for the employment of staff and administration of activities authorized under these rules.

b. The remaining funds for the tax-exempt public purposes which the supreme court may prescribe from time to time consistent with Internal Revenue Code regulations and rulings.

43.2(4) *Records and reports.* The commission shall maintain adequate books and records reflecting all transactions and shall submit quarterly reports of its financial and other activities to the supreme court. At least once a year, and at such additional times as the supreme court may order, the commission shall file with the supreme court a written report reviewing in detail the administration of the fund during the year together with an audit of the fund certified by an Iowa certified public accountant.

[Court Order December 28, 1984; October 23, 1985, effective November 1, 1985; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 43.3 Officers.

43.3(1) *Chairperson.* The supreme court shall designate from among the members of the commission a chairperson who will serve as such at the pleasure of the court.

43.3(2) *Other officers.* The commission may elect other officers as it deems appropriate and may specify their duties.

[Court Order December 28, 1994; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 43.4 Director.

43.4(1) *Appointment.* The director of the office of professional regulation shall serve as the principal executive officer of the commission. All references to the "director" in this chapter shall refer to the director of the office of professional regulation.

43.4(2) *Duties.* The director shall be responsible and accountable to the commission for the proper administration of these rules.

43.4(3) *Services.* The director may employ persons or contract for services as the commission may approve.

43.4(4) *Records.* All information obtained by the commission in the administration of these rules shall be public information, except that individual remittance reports with required attachments shall be confidential unless directed by the court or chair to be made public. Individual remittance reports and attachments shall be available for examination and reproduction by an officer or agent of the

Client Security Commission, for purposes of carrying out duties under chapter 39 of the Iowa Court Rules.

[Court Order December 28, 1984; October 23, 1985, effective November 1, 1985; July 26, 1995, effective September 5, 1995; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; July 1, 2005; December 5, 2007]

Rule 43.5 Compensation and expenses. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be paid their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. All expenses of the operation of the commission shall be paid from funds the commission receives from lawyers' interest-bearing trust accounts or income earned thereon.

[Court Order December 28, 1984; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 43.6 Disposition of funds upon dissolution. If the Lawyer Trust Account Commission is discontinued, any funds then on hand shall be transferred to its successor agency or organization qualifying under the Internal Revenue Code, if any, for distribution for the purposes specified under rule 43.2 or, if there is no successor, to the general fund of the state of Iowa.

[Court Order December 28, 1984; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 43.7 Supplemental rules. Subject to approval of the supreme court, the commission may make and adopt rules not inconsistent with these rules to govern the conduct of its business and performance of its duties.

[Court Order December 28, 1984; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 43.8 Applicability of Iowa Tort Claims Act. Claims against members of the commission and the director, assistant directors, and the staff of the office of professional regulation are subject to the Iowa Tort Claims Act set forth in Iowa Code chapter 669.

[Court Order April 25, 1985; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008]