

ADMONITION NO. 21-08

CLASSIFICATION:

False or Misleading Communication [Mass. R. Prof. C. 7.1]

SUMMARY:

The respondent was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1975. Her practice consists exclusively of federal law and the representation of parties before federal administrative tribunals. In 2005, the respondent moved from Ohio to Massachusetts, where she continued her practice at a Massachusetts firm.

When the respondent moved to Massachusetts, she changed her Ohio license status to inactive. Under Ohio Supreme Court rules, inactive attorneys are not permitted to represent that they are able to engage in the practice of law in Ohio. The respondent's biography on the Massachusetts firm's website stated that she was admitted in Ohio and, in other communications, the respondent stated that she was "a member in good standing and licensed to practice in Ohio." These statements omitted the respondent's inactive status and created the misleading impression that the respondent was able to practice law in Ohio.

The respondent's communications about herself violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 7.1, which prohibits false or misleading communications about a lawyer or her services. When bar counsel contacted the respondent, she corrected the biographical information on the website and subsequently reactivated her Ohio license.

The respondent has no disciplinary history in Ohio or in the federal tribunals before which she practices. She is not admitted in Massachusetts, but she is subject to the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction pursuant to Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.5. She received an admonition.