



**IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON
ETHICS AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

NICK CRITELLI, CHAIRMAN,
317 SIXTH AVENUE
SUITE 950
DES MOINES, IA 50309
515.243.3122
NICK@CRITELLILAW.COM

DAN MOORE, JD. SIOUX CITY, IA
DAVE PHIPPS, JD. DES MOINES, IA
ERIC LAM, JD. CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
TIMOTHY SWEET, JD. REINBECK, IA

August 8, 2007

Mr. Dwight Dinkla
Executive Director
Iowa State Bar Association
521 E. Locust
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Opinion on Voluntary Lawyers for the Arts
Opinion No. 07-05

Dear Mr. Dinkla

The Committee has been asked to opine regarding the propriety of Iowa intellectual property lawyers from participating in and contributing their services to an organization known as the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is a nationwide organization of intellectual property lawyers who provide no or low cost legal services to those individuals in the fine arts community who would otherwise not have ready access to legal services.

The promotional material submitted with the request reveals that it "...provides legal and business services to artists and arts organizations in every discipline, including: acting, animation, architectural design, book making, choreography, composition, computer design, costume design, craft and folk arts, dance, directing, fashion, film, graphic design, literary arts, modeling, multi-media, music, photography, playwriting, poetry, printmaking, screenwriting, songwriting, theater, and visual arts. Access to VLA's pro bono legal services is available to low-income artists and nonprofit arts organizations."

Lawyer participation is open to all lawyers but most appropriately to those involved in intellectual property matters. Accordingly we see nothing in the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct that would prohibit an Iowa lawyer from participating in Volunteer Lawyer for the Arts.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Critelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "N".

Nick Critelli