
**2/70 Partners of attorney: Police and Fire
Commission member accepting criminal
cases**

The committee considered the propriety of the conduct of attorneys who were requested to represent defendants in criminal and traffic cases when their partner is serving as a member of the municipal police and fire commission. The request indicated that the commissioner would give up the practice of representing private parties in criminal or traffic cases in the area where the city was the plaintiff or police officers from the municipality were involved in the investigation or prosecution.

The committee reasoned that none of the partners or associates may engage in conduct or representation when the other partner must desist. So no partner or associate may represent criminal or traffic defendants in cases where their attorney partner on the police and fire commission would have to abstain.

In those cases in which charges are filed against a member of the police or fire department, and the commissioner member's partner is requested to represent the officer, either the commissioner member will have to resign or abstain from participating or the office would have to seek other counsel.

An able attorney has an obligation to render public service to the community when so requested, and it is perfectly proper for him to accept appointment to such commission. However, he must be cautious to avoid conflicts of interest.