

Supreme Court

In re Article II of the Supreme Court Rules :
(Rule 11)

ORDER

Article II, Rule 11 of the Supreme Court Rules is hereby amended to read as follows:

Rule 11. ~~Legal service organizations~~ Nonprofit entities. – Nonprofit ~~organizations~~ entities incorporated in this organized pursuant to the laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States and duly authorized to do business in the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of providing legal assistance to the indigent and/or that provide legal assistance to a defined and limited class of clients, may practice law in their own names through attorneys who are members of the Rhode Island Bar, subject to the approval of this Court. These organizations shall follow the application and registration requirements imposed on limited liability entities pursuant to Rule 10 ~~but~~ and shall be ~~exempt from the payment of application and registration fees~~ required to pay an initial application fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) and annual registration fees thereafter of twenty-five dollars (\$25). Organizations providing legal assistance pursuant to this rule may practice law under a trade name as approved by the Court.

Entered as an Order of this Court this *17th* day of *October 2019*.

_____/s/_____
Suttell, C. J.

_____/s/
Flaherty, J.

_____/s/
Robinson, J.

_____/s/
Indeglia, J.

Justice Goldberg dissenting. I disagree with the Court’s decision to amend Rule 11 as set forth above insofar as I maintain that Rule 11 should be repealed in its entirety and the provisions set forth above be incorporated into Rule 10. In my view, maintaining a separate rule for the registration of nonprofit entities is unnecessary. I note that Rule 11, in both its current and amended forms, provides for nonprofit entities to submit the same application and undergo the same review process that is required of all other limited liability entities seeking a license to practice law pursuant to Rule 10. As such, Rule 11 serves no necessary purpose; it creates a distinction without any appreciable difference.

_____/s/
Goldberg, J.