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## ETHICS COMMITTEE BULLETIN

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# AMENDMENT TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION UNIFORM CONDUCT (BARRISTERS) RULES

1. The Ethics Committee draws the attention of counsel to recent amendments to the *Legal Profession Uniform Conduct (Barristers) Rules 2015 (Rules)*.
2. On 4 March 2022, the Legal Services Council published the *Legal Profession Uniform Conduct (Barristers) Amendment Rule 2022*. It is the first amendment of significance to the Rules since their introduction.
3. The changes concern rule 123 (Anti-discrimination and harassment) and the definition of “workplace bullying” in rule 125. Rule 123 now provides:
  - (1) A barrister must not in the course of, or in connection with, legal practice or their profession, engage in conduct which constitutes:
    - (a) discrimination,
    - (b) sexual harassment, or
    - (c) bullying.
  - (2) For the purposes of subrule (1), conduct in connection with a barrister’s profession includes, but is not limited to:
    - (a) conduct at social functions connected with the bar or the legal profession, and
    - (b) interactions with a person with whom the barrister has, or has had, a professional relationship.

In addition, the definition of “workplace bullying” in rule 125 has been replaced with the new, broader definition of “bullying”.
4. Members of counsel are reminded that a breach of the Rules is conduct capable of constituting unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct within the meaning of the Uniform Law.
5. A link to the full version of the Rules (as amended) can be accessed [here](#). The Victorian Bar website has been updated to reflect the amendment.

Lisa Hannon QC  
Chair  
Ethics Committee

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