

Federation Initiatives and Committee work – updates

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Working Group

The Federation continues to harmonize rules for the legal profession. This year Council approved amendments to the No Cash Rule and the Client Identification and Verification Model Rules and approved a new Trust Accounting Model Rule. In addition, to assist the legal profession in following the model rules, the Federation has developed the booklet Guidance for the Legal Profession which details the professional responsibility to avoid facilitating or participating in money laundering or terrorist financing activities.

TRC Calls to Action Advisory Committee

The Committee continues to work to develop recommendations on how to respond to the TRC's Call to Action 27 (cultural competency training for lawyers). The Committee is considering a recommendation that each law society develop a strategy for responding to the Call that considers the need for education/training in this area at all stages of a lawyer's career (including at the licensing stage).

Standing Committee on National Discipline Standards

The Federation's Standing Committee on National Discipline Standards facilitates the implementation of the national standards established for law society handling of complaints and discipline matters. Members continue to discuss potential new standards or guidance on the reciprocal enforcement of discipline orders and the ability of law societies to authorize simple citations quickly. The most recent amendments were approved by Council in June 2018.

Standing Committee on the Model Code of Professional Conduct

The Federation's Standing Committee on the Model Code is considering amendments to the Model Code. The proposed amendments address: technological competence, return to the practice of law by former judges, and an amendment to the rule on encouraging respect for the administration of justice.