

October 20, 2003
Re: IO-02-76

On September 3, 2002, the ethics commission advised you that you could represent clients before the department of public works on sewer surcharges while you sit on the county's commission on disabilities issues. That decision was based on current §3-105 of the Public Ethics Law.

The ethics law was amended by Bill 38-03, available online at www.aacounty.org (click Pending Legislation, click Approved Legislation and scroll down to Bill 38-03). The changes enacted by this bill will take effect on November 5, 2003. New §5-104(a)(2) prohibits an employee from assisting or representing a person in any matter "before any governmental unit or employee of the county". As a county employee under the ethics law, you will no longer be permitted to represent clients before any county agency.

While you may complete any representation of your clients which you undertook based on the letter of September 3, you may not undertake any new cases before a county agency that may continue after November 5, 2003.

Please call the ethics commission office if you have any questions about this or other changes to the ethics law.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director