

1 **Existing BCO paragraph:**

2 ~~32-19. No professional counsel shall be permitted as such to appear and plead~~
3 ~~in cases of process in any court; but an accused person may, if he desires it, be~~
4 ~~represented before the Session by any communing member of the same~~
5 ~~particular church, or before any other court, by any member of that court. A~~
6 ~~member of the court so employed shall not be allowed to sit in judgment in the~~
7 ~~case.~~

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9 **Proposed BCO paragraphs:**

10 32-19.a. In cases before any church court, no professional representative
11 (attorney admitted to the bar or employee of a law firm) shall be permitted to
12 appear on behalf of any party, assist with oral or written arguments, or engage
13 in communications regarding the case, when

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15 i. the representative is functioning in an attorney/client relationship;
16 or
17 ii. the representative is remunerated in any form, including, but not
18 limited to, fees, billings, reimbursement, or other non-monetary
19 compensation; or
20 iii. the representative is engaged as a “pro bono” case; or
21 iv. the representative is otherwise utilizing corporate resources.

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23 b. Representatives for either party shall be any communing member of the
24 same particular church if before a Session, or before any other court, any
25 communing member of the court of original jurisdiction (BCO 11-4) and may
26 continue through appeal until the conclusion of the case. A member of the court
27 so employed shall not be allowed to sit in judgment in the case.

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29 c. Representatives for either party may appoint assistants according to these
30 same requirements.

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32 *Adopted by Northern New England Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 4, 2023*
33 *Attested by /s/ TE C.S. Per Almquist, stated clerk*