

## **RULE 223. OTHER PLEADINGS**

**(a) Answer:** (1) *Time To Answer or Move:* The Commissioner shall have 30 days from the date of service of the petition within which to file an answer or move with respect to the petition, or, in an action for additional disclosure, to file an election not to defend pursuant to Code section 6110(f)(4)(B), in which event the Commissioner shall be relieved of the obligation of filing an answer or any subsequent pleading. With respect to intervention when the Commissioner elects not to defend, see Rule 225.

(2) *Form and Content:* The answer shall be drawn so that it will advise the petitioner and the Court fully of the nature of the defense. It shall contain a specific admission or denial of each material allegation in the petition. If the Commissioner shall be without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of an allegation, then the Commissioner shall so state, and such statement shall have the effect of a denial. If the Commissioner intends to qualify or to deny only a part of an allegation, then the Commissioner shall specify so much of it as is true and shall qualify or deny only the remainder. In addition, the answer shall contain a clear and concise statement of every ground, together with the facts in support thereof on which the Commissioner relies and has the burden of proof. Paragraphs of the answer shall be designated to correspond to those of the petition to which they relate.

(3) *Effect of Answer:* Every material allegation set out in the petition and not expressly admitted or denied in the answer shall be deemed to be admitted.

**(b) Reply:** Each petitioner may file a reply or move with respect to the answer within 20 days from the date of service of the answer. Where a reply is filed, every affirmative allegation set out in the answer and not expressly admitted or denied in the reply, shall be deemed to be admitted. Where a reply is not filed, the affirmative allegations in the answer will be deemed denied. Any new material contained in the reply shall be deemed denied.