

Committee Opinion
December 4, 1979

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 348

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – PAST
CLIENT.

It is not ethically proper for a lawyer or his law firm to refuse to disclose information vital to a dispute involving a former client to that former client, even though the lawyer or law firm currently acts as general counsel to an entity which now has interests adverse to the former client, where that information specifically relates to facts arising out of the attorney-client relationship that existed between the lawyer or law firm and the former client. Furthermore, it would not be ethically permissible for the lawyer or law firm to represent either the former client or the current client in any litigation arising between the two. [See II: DR:4-101(B)(2) (withholding is same as "using"); EC:4-6; and DR:9-102(B)(4) (information is a "property" of client).]

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