

Committee Opinion
July 21, 1982

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 479

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS/REFERRALS
BASED ON PRO BONO WORK.

It would not be ethically improper for a private attorney to participate in an open panel of attorneys set up by a local legal aid office to receive paying referrals on a rotating basis in consideration of the attorney also accepting pro bono work referred by the legal aid office.

The legal aid attorney, however, who refers a paying client to such an attorney must be certain to do so with the client's needs in mind, realizing that a participating attorney may not always be the one who meets those needs. [See Canon 5.]

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