

Committee Opinion
September 20, 1982

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 480

DIVIDING LEGAL FEES WITH A
NONLAWYER/CORPORATION
DIRECTLY COLLECTS CORPORATE
ATTORNEY'S FEES FROM THIRD
PARTY.

It is improper for an attorney's corporate employer or its parent company (other than a professional corporation in either case) to directly charge and collect legal fees from a customer of either corporation for work done by the corporate attorney for the customer unless:

- (1) the attorney actually receives the fee; or
- (2) the fee is simply a reimbursement to the corporate employer, or to its parent company, for the actual cost of the legal service provided by the attorney.

[See DR:3-102(A), ABA Informal Opinions 544 (December 31, 1962) and 1451 (June 4, 1980).]

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