

Committee Opinion
December 16, 1983

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 534

LEGAL FEES/DIVIDING LEGAL FEES
WITH A NON-LAWYER.

It would be improper for an attorney in collecting delinquent county taxes and receiving fee awards in such cases, as provided for in Va. Code Annot. § 58-1117.5, to pay to the county any portion of such fees awarded to him. There are instances, however, where the attorney's fees may be remitted to the non-lawyer employer/client where the attorney's fee is "a direct reimbursement to the [client] for the cost of the legal service provided by employed counsel." [DR:3-102, LE Op. 480 (formerly LE-IO 642), LE-IO 589 (withdrawn for reconsideration 9/8/83), and § 58-1117.5, Code of Virginia]

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