

Committee Opinion
November 14, 1984

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 609

INTERMEDIARY – LEGAL
EMPLOYMENT.

An attorney is contacted by two separate organizations to provide services to its customers. The first organization contacts the attorney to perform title work for a prospective lender. The second organization locates an attorney for representation of an employer at unemployment compensation appeal hearings. In both situations, the customer of the intermediary is the local attorney's client and the attorney owes to that client duties of zealous representation, independent professional judgment and the preservation of confidences and secrets. It is improper for the attorney to share his attorney's fees paid by the client with the nonlawyer intermediary. [DR:3-102, EC:3-8, DR:4-101(B)(1), (2), (3), DR:5-106(B), EC:5-23, LE Op. 480]

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