

Committee Opinion
April 10, 1985

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 681

TRUST/ESCROW ACCOUNTS –
ATTORNEY'S FEES – RETAINER PAID
IN ADVANCE – ACCOUNTING.

It is the duty of a lawyer to account to his client, upon request, for all or any part of a fee paid for services to be rendered in the future. Thus, an attorney who is paid a substantial portion of an agreed fee in a criminal matter and whose services are terminated prior to the conclusion of the case must, upon demand by his client, provide an accounting of fees received and expended. Fees claimed must be reasonable.
[DR:9-102, DR:2-106, LE Op. 510]

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