

*Committee Opinion*  
*September 3, 1982*

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 488

DUTY TO DISCLOSE/CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMATION EXONERATING AN  
INDIVIDUAL.

It would be improper for an attorney to disclose confidential information gained from a client, even though that information would exonerate another individual and even though the attorney no longer represents the client. DR:7-102(B)(1) would be controlling prior to any trial, as no fraud would as yet have been perpetrated upon a tribunal, and DR:4-101(B) sets out the attorney's absolute duty to preserve a client's secrets and confidences. EC:4-6 emphasizes the continuing nature of this duty, even to a former client.

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