

Committee Opinion
January 18, 1984

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 539

ADVERTISING-SOLICITATION/REAL
ESTATE/ATTORNEY RECOMMENDED
BY REAL ESTATE FIRM.

An attorney may participate in a real estate settlement where a real estate firm, under a "settlement service," has recommended to its customers that a specific attorney handle the closing. The real estate firm also may quote the attorney's legal fees if the legal fees have been determined only by the attorney. However, the communications provided by the real estate firm pertaining to the lawyer's services and fees must be truthful, the customer must have complete freedom in choosing his attorney for the legal services, the lawyer must not have any direct or indirect "reward" or other premium coming to him from the real estate firm as a result of his relationships with the real estate firm, and full disclosure must be made as to all of the understandings and relationships between the two professional organizations which might influence the attorney's independent judgment. [See DR:2-103(A)(1), (2) & 2-103(D)]

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