

Committee Opinion  
April 2, 1985

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 680

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – TWO  
OFFICE LAW FIRM.

It is not improper for an attorney to represent plaintiffs in a products liability claim even though the firm simultaneously represents as third-party defendants, distributors of the product at issue in a separate products liability claim. This conclusion is premised upon the fact that the two factual situations are unrelated except with respect to the nature of the injuries and the alleged cause; that there are no confidences and secrets of the defendants which may be used to the detriment of the defendant/client or to the benefit of the firm's new plaintiff clients, or to the benefit of the members of the firm; and that the independent professional judgment of the attorney on behalf of plaintiffs will be unaffected by the firm's representation of the defendants in the unrelated matter.  
[ DR:4-101, DR:5-101, DR:5-105]

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