

Committee Opinion  
May 10, 1985

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 697

TRUST ACCOUNT OF DECEASED  
ATTORNEY AS SATISFACTION OF  
NONRELATED CLAIM.

It is permissible for the trust account of a deceased attorney to be distributed to the estate of the attorney and disbursed according to law to satisfy the attorney's nontrust obligations when:

1. A diligent good faith review of the account is made by the lawyer to determine the ownership of the funds and such review assures that properly identified property is paid over to the client or the client's estate.

2. Where such review has occurred and the ownership of the account cannot be attributed to any client, the lawyer should maintain the funds in an interest-bearing account for such additional time as the lawyer reasonably concludes to be necessary to assure that no successful claim could be made by an unidentified client for the account within any applicable statute of limitations. [See LE Op. 548]

Committee Opinion  
May 10, 1985

**Legal Ethics Committee Notes.** – Editor's Note: See also L E Op. No. 1644, 1673.