

Committee Opinion
August 30, 1985

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 715

THREATENING CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION – CIVIL MATTER.

It is unethical for a lawyer to threaten to present criminal charges solely to obtain an Advantage in a civil matter. Accordingly, if counsel alludes to possible criminal prosecution when corresponding with a debtor for the sole purpose of advancing his client's civil claim, such conduct is unethical. [See: DR:7-104]

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Legal Ethics Committee Notes. – Rule 3.4(h) allows a lawyer to offer advice to the client about the client's rights under the criminal law.