

Committee Opinion
May 8, 1987

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 916

ATTORNEY – CLIENT – CONFLICT OF
INTEREST – MULTIPLE CLIENTS.

An attorney represents Defendant "J" on a burglary charge, Defendant "X" on a traffic charge and Defendant "Y" on a traffic charge. The attorney previously represented Defendant "Z." "X" is a victim of "J's" burglary charge, "Y" is a commonwealth's witness against "J" on the burglary charge and "Z" is a commonwealth's witness against "J" on the burglary charge. It is assumed that the traffic charge of both "X" and "Y" are not related to each other or to the burglary charge.

It is not improper, per se under these circumstances for the attorney to continue to represent all the parties as long as each client is fully advised of the attorney's representation of all other clients and the clients consent to continue representation. The attorney must be satisfied that his independent professional judgment on behalf of each client will not be affected and that Code provisions dealing with preservation of confidences and secrets is complied with. [DR:4-101(B), DR:5-105; LE Op. 819, LE Op. 706, LE Op. 688, LE Op. 621]

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