

---

**4/71 B      Lawyer sharing office with real estate  
broker**

---

Although it is not inherently improper for an attorney to share office space with a real estate broker, such arrangement must be made in accordance with the ethical rules and the operation scrutinized to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Also, the public must be aware when they are in the offices, just what facility they are visiting—lawyer or broker, and that the two offices are separate entities. *State v. Willenson*, 20 Wis. (2d) 519 addressed this problem. Ideally, there should be a separate physical division for the two offices with separate entrances, signs and telephone service to each. If this arrangement is not practical, then within the suite of offices which are shared, a separate office with an appropriate sign on each is necessary, and all office personnel should be well trained concerning the necessity for informing the public of the separate facilities when they visit or telephone the office. (4/5/71)