
6/75 D Attorney/collection agency fee sharing

In response to an inquiry whether an attorney may properly be compensated for legal work done for a collection agency by a percentage of the agency's fee for successful debt collection, the committee referred to the following considerations. Advisory Opinions 11-1961 and 21-1972, and *State ex rel. State Bar v. Bonded Collections*, 36 Wis. 2d 643, 154 N.W. 2d 250 (1967), address the issue of proper attorney/collection agency relationship. In handling collection matters, an attorney's ultimate client is the creditor. The attorney should have appropriate relations with that client and avoid interference by the collection agency. The attorney must look to the creditor-client for payment of legal fees. An attorney must be compensated on the basis of work performed or responsibility assumed on the client's behalf and may not share fees with a non-lawyer.