

(LES 2851J)

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL
Opinion #92-45, Request #268
Issued July 23, 1992

An attorney seeks Panel advice regarding the following facts. The attorney's law firm handles numerous clients with regards to workers' compensation and personal injury cases. The attorney would like to establish a procedure whereby the firm would ask new clients to advance a certain amount of money for future expenses and costs. The firm would like to place the money in a client account and use it as needed. The law firm asks if this procedure is ethically appropriate.

The Panel agrees that the above proposed procedure is guided by Rule 1.15 "Safekeeping of Property." Rule 1.15(d-g) specifically sets forth the procedure for the deposit of client funds. As long as the law firm follows Rule 1.15 precisely, the proposed procedure would not violate the Rules of Professional Conduct.