

(0009J)

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL  
Opinion #92-81, Request #309  
Issued November 18, 1992

An attorney seeks Panel advice with regard to a division of fees with another law office. The inquiring attorney represents a client in a legal matter who was previously represented by an attorney who has been suspended from the practice of law. The inquiring attorney asks what methods may be employed in order to compensate the suspended attorney's office for the previous legal work performed on behalf of the client.

The Panel agrees that the fees should be divided according to quantum meruit; the fair value of services rendered before the former attorney's termination of the representation. To the extent that the client does not have a separate agreement for compensating the suspended attorney for his services performed prior to suspension, the inquiring attorney may pay a portion of the fee to the suspended attorney or his office, based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered by the suspended attorney prior to the suspension. See also Opinions #91-71 and #92-3.