

RESOURCES FOR PARTNERSHIP WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

Helpful Ethics Opinions

1. The State Bar of California Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct Formal Opinion No. 2014-190, [https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Portals/0/documents/ethics/Opinions/CAL%202014-190%20\(11-0003\)%20v1.pdf](https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Portals/0/documents/ethics/Opinions/CAL%202014-190%20(11-0003)%20v1.pdf). Issues discussed: Upon the dissolution of a law firm, what duties does an attorney affiliated with the firm owe to a client on whose behalf he or she provided legal services if the attorney no longer will be representing the client following the dissolution? How does the fulfillment of those duties differ if the attorney had no connection with or knowledge of the client prior to dissolution of the firm? Do the steps an attorney may be required to take depend on the nature of the attorney's position with the firm?
2. Pennsylvania Bar Association Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility/Philadelphia Bar Association Professional Guidance Committee Joint Formal Opinion 2007-300, <http://www.philadelphiabar.org/WebObjects/PBAReadOnly.woa/Contents/WebServerResources/CMSResources/EthicsOpinion2007-300.pdf>. Issues discussed: Ethical obligations when a lawyer changes firms (and issues related to withdrawal and dissolution).

ABA Resources

Model withdrawal and dissolution agreements are available from the ABA Web store as downloadable Word files at <https://www.americanbar.org/products/ecd/chapter/217902/> and <https://www.americanbar.org/products/ecd/chapter/217903/>, respectively.

PLF Resources

Additional resources, such as checklists for closing or selling a law practice, are available on the PLF website at www.osbplf.org.

Advice

For legal advice, consult outside counsel experienced in the areas of lawyer withdrawal or partnership dissolution. This is particularly critical if you anticipate the process will be contentious. The PLF does not provide legal advice on these issues nor can we mediate or resolve disputes between lawyers and firms.

For ethics advice relating to your withdrawal or dissolution, consult outside counsel or contact the OSB General Counsel's Office, <https://www.osbar.org/ethics/index.html>.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

This material is provided for informational purposes only and does not establish, report, or create the standard of care for attorneys in Oregon, nor does it represent a complete analysis of the topics presented. Readers should conduct their own appropriate legal research. The information presented does not represent legal advice. This information may not be republished, sold, or used in any other form without the written consent of the Oregon State Bar Professional Liability Fund except that permission is granted for Oregon lawyers to use and modify these materials for use in their own practices. © 2021 OSB Professional Liability Fund