# **Oklahoma Ethics Opinions**

[The descriptive language included for each opinion is meant as a research aid only and may not include the entire topic covered by the opinion. Some opinions are listed under several topics. As opinions are added the index will be updated and periodically revised. The best known date of issuance is included in a parenthetical after each opinion]

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- **176 -** Rosters of civic club (8/4/54)
- **174 -** Leaflet discussing recent tax laws (12/9/53)
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#### Generally

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- **304 -** Ex parte communications with physician for adverse party (11/17/89)
- **295** Delivery of client files and copies (3/16/79)
- **285** Publication of letter (4/18/75)
- **259** Between a government appeals agent in the Selective Service System and registrant (5/23/70)
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- **240** Lawyer as insurance adjuster communicating with opposing party (3/17/66)
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- **307 -** Recording telephone conversations
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- 278 Representing both the husband and the wife in divorce proceedings (4/26/74)
- 178 Appropriation of personalty by client (11/10/54)
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- 327 In-house goals of an insurance company staff lawyer
- 326 Contributing personal funds to client's prison account
- 323 Indemnifying client against attorney's fees and costs
- 322 City councilor practicing before municipal court
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- **318** Aircraft company "in-house counsel" rendering title opinions for clients of the title company (Dec., 2002)
- **316** Estate planning and trust attorney (1) offer to sell to the client financial products or (2) refer the client to a business in which the attorney owns an interest (Dec., 2001)
- **314 -** Submitting insureds' invoices for defense counsel to third party auditors (Dec., 2000)
- 313 Ex parte contacts with eminent domain commissioners (9/15/00)
- **312 -** Mandatory arbitration clauses in attorney-client contracts (8/18/00)
- **311 -** Sexual relations with clients (10/16/98)
- **309 -** Representation of insured's by lawyers who are employees of a liability insurer (3/27/98)
- 298 Executor and attorney for an estate (1980)
- **294** Imputation of conflicts in public defender's office (5/20/78)
- **290** Acting as both title examiner and agent for the title insurance company (10/29/76)

- 284 Attorney rendering opinion of validity of revenue bonds (2/17/75)
- **278** Representing both the husband and the wife in divorce proceedings (4/26/74)
- **266** Attorney representing both the executrix of a will and another who is sole legatee (4/21/72)
- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **254 -** Office sharing (5/14/68)
- **244 -** Trust officer/attorney as lay intermediary (9/16/66)
- **229** Posting bond for a client by wife of attorney who has an interest in the benefit from the fees fo the bond; referal fee from a bondsman (3/18/65)
- **210 -** Bankruptcy representation of debtor financing company and accepting direct payment from a creditor by a bankrupt's attorney (9/15/61)
- **200** Representing a client before city council when another member is a city attorney (11/2/59)
- **199** Assistant county attorney representing beer license applicant (11/12/59)
- **188** Adverse interests arising between first attorney and second attorney (7/8/57)
- **184 -** Contact with law partner (3/14/56)
- **171 -** Insurance customer (9/16/53)
- **134** Employment by opposing party when attorney prepared separation agreement for divorcing parties (2/27/37)

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- 322 City councilor practicing before municipal court
- **301** Giving files to historical or educational institution (6/16/83)
- **296** Private employment from a municipal board which the attorney had previously represented as a municipal employee (7/18/80)
- **294** Imputation of conflicts in public defender's office (5/20/78)
- **280** Firm representing an adverse party to a person that a former associate represented (6/22/74)
- **192** Personal representative and heirs (9/11/57)

### Generally

- **294** Imputation of conflicts in public defender's office (5/20/78)
- **282 -** Office sharing with city manager/attorney (10/18/74)
- **280** Firm representing an adverse party to a person that a former associate represented (6/22/74)
- 278 Representing both the husband and the wife in divorce proceedings (4/26/74)
- **266** Attorney representing both the executrix of a will and another who is sole legatee (4/21/72)
- **259 -** Between a government appeals agent in the Selective Service System and registrant (5/23/70)

- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **254 -** Office sharing (5/14/68)
- **246** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
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- 244 Trust officer/attorney as lay intermediary (9/16/66)
- 238 Buildings named law buildings (3/17/66)
- **229 -** Posting bond for a client by wife of attorney who has an interest in the benefit from the fees fo the bond; referal fee from a bondsman (3/18/65)
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- **199** Assistant county attorney representing beer license applicant (11/12/59)
- **192** Personal representative and heirs (9/11/57)
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- **184 -** Contact with law partner (3/14/56)
- **171 -** Insurance customer (9/16/53)
- **160** Accepting employment from a client who has previously discharged other attorney (10/8/52)
- **138 -** Ex-county attorney accepting employment after term from the prosecuting witness in a divorce action (9/17/37)
- **137 -** Ex-official accepting employment in connection in matter which ex-official has investigated (9/17/37)
- **127** Accepting employment to collect note given by the defendant for attorney fees in a proceeding that county attorney prosecuted while in office (10/23/36)
- **126** Providing fees with lay forwarder (10/23/36)
- 106 City attorney representing client in same action city attorney defended the city in (2/28/36)
- **102** Employment in suit after employment as liquidating agent (1/24/36)
- 91 Accepting employment against a former client (9/27/35)
- **88** Law associations with common offices (5/24/35)
- 87 Representing creditors in receivership case and a damage suit against the receiver (10/25/35)
- **84 -** Ex-county attorney accepting employment from one against whom ex-county attorney had filed a complaint (1/25/35)
- **81 -** Accepting employment from an administrator (12/27/34)
- 73 Representing testator and then claimant agianst will (6/22/34)
- 72 Accepting employment from agency with claim (6/22/34)
- **62** Attorney fees on bond issue (10/27/33)

- **61** Attorney accepting employment from a person charged with a crime without consulting the first attorney assigned to the person by a magistrate (10/27/33)
- **59 -** Conflicts with heirs/devisees/creditors (10/27/33)
- **56 -** Same subject matter (10/27/33)
- **44 -** Two separate groups of heirs in a title suit whose interests are conflicting (11/25/32)
- 33 Judgment is rendered against attorney's client, then attorney represents other parties in resisting a motion to vacate the judgment (6/24/32)
- 28 Representing both debtor and creditor (5/27/32)

# **Special Conflicts of Interest**

- **302 -** Judge of a court not of record acting as defense counsel in criminal cases in other courts (9/13/85)
- **282 -** Office sharing with city manager/attorney (10/18/74)
- 253 Judges as defense counsel and representation of indigent. (3/14/68)
- 252 Witness paying for actual financial loss incurred (11/9/67)
- **249 -** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- **172 -** Judge continuing practice of law and maintaining office and firm name or letter head (9/16/53)
- **168 -** Superior court judge completing cases pending in other courts when appointed (6/10/53)
- **101 -** Ex-judge accepting employment to obtain custody of a child after making an order determining the custody of the child (1/24/36)
- **100 -** Employment of former judge (12/26/35)
- 27 Ex-judge or county lawyer (4/29/32)

### **Government Officers and Employees**

- **294** Imputation of conflicts in public defender's office (5/20/78)
- 282 Office sharing with city manager/attorney (10/18/74)
- **259** Between a government appeals agent in the Selective Service System and registrant (5/23/70)
- **254 -** Office sharing (5/14/68)
- **246** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **245** When firm member is on the pardon and parole board (2/23/67)
- **228** Attorneys in reserve components of armed forces performing legal services for personnel (4/16/64)
- **222 -** Public prosecutor who assisted in prosecution of a defendant acquitted on grounds of insanity (11/15/63)

- **200** Representing a client before city council when another member is a city attorney (11/2/59)
- **199** Assistant county attorney representing beer license applicant (11/12/59)
- **190** City attorney's office in City Hall (3/13/58)
- **156** Using county attorney office as collection agency (10/8/52)
- **42** Ex-city attorney who was formerly an investigator (11/25/32)

#### **Contract**

- **325 -** Contract with a client concerning the award of statutory awarded attorneys and contingency fee percentage
- **312 -** Mandatory arbitration clauses in attorney-client contracts (8/18/00)
- **111 -** Board of trustees member of an incorporated town contracting with town to perform legal services (6/19/36)
- **49 -** Contracts to represent individual members of a co-operative association (2/24/33)
- **41 -** Contingency fee agreement (11/25/32)
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- **289** Attorney not admitted to practice in Oklahoma employed by an Oklahoma corporation (8/21/76)
- **283** Professional corporation which becomes a partner in the law partnership in which the attorney was formerly a partner (11/22/74)
- **263** Telephone listing under the name of professional corporation (5/22/71)
- **231 -** Newspaper advertisement or letterhead containing the name of corporate general counsel (6/19/65)
- **213 -** Professional corporation organized for the practice of law (12/14/61)
- **111 -** Board of trustees member of an incorporated town contracting with town to perform legal services (6/19/36)
- **95** Advertising or permitting name to be inserted in a law list distributed to laymen and corporations (11/22/35)

#### **Directory**

- 315 Multijurisdiction license advertisment (Dec., 2000)
- **263** Telephone listing under the name of professional corporation (5/22/71)
- **255** Listing style (8/22/68)
- 233 Classified telephone directory (11/11/65)
- 227 Classified directory listings (6/13/64)
- **226 -** City directory listings (4/16/64)
- 225 Chamber of commerce directory (4/16/64)

- 224 Biographical data in a directory (4/16/64)
- **202** Telephone listings in multiple towns (11/2/59)
- **201 -** Attorney omitted from telephone directory (11/2/59)
- **197** Using the heading "adjuster" (8/13/59)
- **170** Business directory of civic organization (6/10/53)
- 133 Stating attorney gives special attention to certain lines of practice (2/26/37)
- 132 Advertising which solicits employment in the preparation of briefs (2/26/37)
- **129** Advertising in a telephone directory in type of a different style or size from that usually employed in such a directory (11/30/36)
- **124** Stating attorney gives special attention to certain lines of practice (10/30/36)
- **50** Advertising matter inserted after name in the classified section of a telephone directory (2/24/33)
- **30 -** Advertising after attorney's name in the telephone directory; insurance company enjoined from soliciting business; insurance company's layman preparing for or conducting trial cases before the industrial commission (5/27/32)

#### **Divorce**

- **278** Representing both the husband and the wife in divorce proceedings (4/26/74)
- **234 -** Divorce attorney refusing to file decree or to furnish the decree until paid (11/11/65)
- **138 -** Ex-county attorney accepting employment after term from the prosecuting witness in a divorce action (9/17/37)
- 135 Determination of legal rights (5/21/37)
- **41 -** Contingency fee agreement (11/25/32)

#### **Executor**

- **298** Executor and attorney for an estate (1980)
- 90 Criminal charge against executor of a bond (7/26/35)
- **59 -** Conflicts with heirs/devisees/creditors (10/27/33)

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- **159** Letter to a debtor resembling the service of process (10/8/52)

- 121 Inducing appraisers to appraise the property at less than its fair value (9/25/36)
- **79** Amicus curiae attorney; and duties of an attorney appointed as one (9/21/34)
- **35** Advertising by an attorney in a card carried in a newspaper (7/22/32)

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- 330 Attorney using personal credit card for client expenses to receive points or awards (7/3/13)
- **324** Attorney fees and costs in addition to a contingency fee
- **303** Interest on clients funds deposited in a trust account (1986)
- **299** Readopted opinion 41 (9/18/81)
- **297** Mortgage or security interest in the property of client acquired by attorney to secure fee (5/16/80)
- **291 -** Collecting attorney fees from special assessment districts (1977)
- **286** Interest on fees and expenses charged by an attorney (5/16/75)
- **284** Attorney rendering opinion of validity of revenue bonds (2/17/75)
- **275** Temporary attorney fees (7/27/73)
- **273** Club employing attorney to answer questions of its members who pay for the service out of their dues (6/23/73)
- **268 -** Credit card used to pay fees (12/14/72)
- **258** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)
- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **250** Advertising or soliciting by circulars through touter, personal communication or interviews (5/11/67)
- **249 -** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- 241 Division of fees between forwarding attorney and recipient attorney (3/17/66)
- **234 -** Divorce attorney refusing to file decree or to furnish the decree until paid (11/11/65)
- **229** Posting bond for a client by wife of attorney who has an interest in the benefit from the fees fo the bond; referal fee from a bondsman (3/18/65)
- **224** Biographical data in a directory (4/16/64)
- **220** Legal fees that are habitually less than fees set forth in the minimum fee schedule (10/18/62)
- **131 -** Accepting employment from a client who has previously discharged other attorney (10/8/52)
- 128 Contingent witness fees (10/23/36)

- **127** Accepting employment to collect note given by the defendant for attorney fees in a proceeding that county attorney prosecuted while in office (10/23/36)
- 121 Inducing appraisers to appraise the property at less than its fair value (9/25/36)
- **111 -** Board of trustees member of an incorporated town contracting with town to perform legal services (6/19/36)
- 110 Having the client tell where stolen jewels are to pay attorney fees and then giving the information to the police (6/19/36)
- **103 -** Sharing contingency fees (1/24/36)
- **86** State bar, who are members, judges as members (their right to practice suspended and their obligation to continue to pay fees) (2/22/35)
- **85** Fee schedules by local bar association (1/25/35)
- **81** Accepting employment from an administrator (12/27/34)
- **72** Accepting employment from agency with claim (6/22/34)
- **71 -** Collecting or receiving more than the fee awarded by the industrial commission when attorney is employed upon a contingent fee (5/25/34)
- **69 -** Contingent fees to pay experts (4/27/34)
- **62** Attorney fees on a bond issue (10/27/33)
- **51 -** Relative of a judge who is a member of the bar requesting judge to fix or allow attorney's fees (3/24/33)
- **41 -** Contingency fee agreement (11/25/32)
- **29** Purchase of collection claim (5/27/32)
- **7 -** Paying attorney fees to a client loan company or an employer loan company (9/25/36)

## **Contingency Fee**

- **325 -** Contract with a client concerning the award of statutory awarded attorneys and contingency fee percentage
- 324 Attorney fees and costs in addition to a contingency fee
- 323 Indemnifying client against attorney's fees and costs
- **317 -** Non-refundable fee agreement (Dec., 2002)
- **306 -** Contingency fee on med-pay when insurance company has not denied coverage (12/18/92)
- **299 -** *Readopted opinion 41* (9/18/81)
- 252 Witness paying for actual financial loss incurred (11/9/67)
- 251 Splitting fees with collection agency (9/14/67)
- **160** Accepting employment from a client who has previously discharged other attorney (10/8/52)
- 128 Contingent witness fees (10/23/36)
- **122** Advancing fees for indigent client as contingency fee (9/24/36)
- **112 -** Association with commissioner. City commissioner's approval to compromise a case (6/19/36)

- **103 -** Sharing contingency fees (1/24/36)
- **72** Accepting employment from agency with claim (6/22/34)
- **71 -** Collecting or receiving more than the fee awarded by the industrial commission when attorney is employed upon a contingent fee (5/25/34)
- **69 -** Contingent fees to pay experts (4/27/34)
- **66 -** Client that wishes to terminate attorney but is unaware of the amount owed since there is contingency fee agreement
- **41 -** Contingency fee agreement (11/25/32)

#### **Division of Fees**

- **258** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)
- **250** Advertising or soliciting by circulars through touter, personal communication or interviews (5/11/67)
- **249 -** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- 241 Division of fees between forwarding attorney and recipient attorney (3/17/66)
- **229** Posting bond for a client by wife of attorney who has an interest in the benefit from the fees fo the bond; referal fee from a bondsman (3/18/65)
- **126** Providing fees with lay forwarder (10/23/36)
- **107 -** Dividing fees (3/27/36)
- 10 Division of a collection of fees with forwarder (11/20/31)
- **6** Division of fees in a mortgage foreclosure (9/25/36)

#### **Fields of Practice**

- **219 -** Specialized legal field announcement (10/18/62)
- **195** Announcement that attorney is reorganizing law partnership, change of address, return from government service, and opening an office (5/5/58)

# **Former Client**

- **192 -** Personal representative and heirs (9/11/57)
- **154 -** When the policy is written by an insurance agency in which the attorney owns an interest (11/14/51)
- **91 -** Accepting employment against a former client (9/27/35)

#### **Former Partner**

- **283 -** Professional corporation which becomes a partner in the law partnership in which the attorney was formerly a partner (11/22/74)
- **280** Firm representing an adverse party to a person that a former associate represented (6/22/74)

**246 -** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)

#### Fraud

- **159** Letter to a debtor resembling the service of process (10/8/52)
- 121 Inducing appraisers to appraise the property at less than its fair value (9/25/36)

# **Government Officer/Employee**

- **259** Between a government appeals agent in the Selective Service System and registrant (5/23/70)
- **195** Announcement that attorney is reorganizing law partnership, change of address, return from government service, and opening an office (5/5/58)
- **186** Letterhead listing government client (6/12/57)
- **131 -** Accepting employment from a client who has previously discharged other attorney (2/26/37)

## **Guilty Plea**

- **270** Life insurer appointing attorney as a special representative and advertising such (6/30/60)
- 93 Representing co-defendants when one pleads guilty (10/25/35)

# **Impropriety**

- **145** Lay business conducted by member of the bar (4/12/50)
- **139** Employment by opposing party (9/27/27)
- **134** Employment by opposing party when attorney prepared separation agreement for divorcing parties (2/27/37)
- 119 Investigation of claims even though no adjustment occurs (9/24/36)
- **44 -** Two separate groups of heirs in a title suit whose interests are conflicting (11/25/32)
- **42 -** Ex-city attorney formerly an investigator (11/25/32)

## **Indirect Advertising/Solicitation**

- 243 Direct or indirect advertising or soliciting by an attorney (6/25/66)
- **218** Announcements of new offices (6/14/62)
- **206** Indirect advertisment via Christmas card (6/30/60)
- 179 Newspaper photo regarding recent judgment (3/9/55)
- **64 -** Barter or trade exchange of legal services for merchandise; use of touters to secure business by indirection or by the intervention of lay intermediaries (11/24/33)
- **31 -** Associated business engaged in by attorney (5/27/32)

#### **Insurance**

- 327 In-house goals of an insurance company staff lawyer
- **316** Estate planning and trust attorney (1) offer to sell to the client financial products or (2) refer the client to a business in which the attorney owns an interest (Dec., 2001)
- **314 -** Submitting insureds' invoices for defense counsel to third party auditors (Dec., 2000)
- **306 -** Contingency fee on med-pay when insurance company has not denied coverage (12/18/92)
- **290** Acting as both title examiner and agent for the title insurance company (10/29/76)
- **281 -** Title insurance company having an attorney as an agent (9/21/74) [replaced by opinion 290]
- **258** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)
- **240** Lawyer as insurance adjuster communicating with opposing party (3/17/66)
- **171 -** Insurance customer (9/16/53)
- 165 Law related businesses (1/14/53)
- **147 -** Advertising for insurance business; lay insurance business operated by attorney (6/14/50)
- **146** Advertising as an adjuster through a pamphlet (6/14/50)
- 119 Investigation of claims even though no adjustment occurs (9/24/36)
- 118 Letterheads containing that the firm is "insurance adjuster" but not the names of laymen adjusters that are employed (9/25/36)
- 98 Law list in a magazine intended to circulate among insurance men (12/26/35)
- **30 -** Advertising after attorney's name in the telephone directory; insurance company enjoined from soliciting business; insurance company's layman preparing for or conducting trial cases before the industrial commission (5/27/32)

# **Integrity of Judicial and Legal Officials**

- **302 -** Judge of a court not of record acting as defense counsel in criminal cases in other courts (9/13/85)
- **292** Judges' and lawyers' care in their social relationships (6/22/77)
- **279** Judge practicing law by representing clients seeking to have a platted street vacated (6/22/74)
- 253 Judges as defense counsel and representation of indigent. (3/14/68)
- **246 -** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **186** Letterhead listing government client (6/12/57)

- 175 Partnership between attorney and justice of the peace (12/9/53) (see also opin. # 162)
- **172 -** Judge continuing practice of law and maintaining office and firm name or letter head (9/16/53)
- **168** Superior court judge completing cases pending in other courts when appointed (6/10/53)
- **166** County judge preparing tax returns for individuals (1/14/53)
- **162** Partnership between attorney and justice of the peace (11/12/52)

## Judge

- **302 -** Judge of a court not of record acting as defense counsel in criminal cases in other courts (9/13/85)
- **292** Judges' and lawyers' care in their social relationships (6/22/77)
- **279** Judge practicing law by representing clients seeking to have a platted street vacated (6/22/74)
- 253 Judges as defense counsel and representation of indigent. (3/14/68)
- **246 -** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **204 -** Business cards (6/30/60)
- **172 -** Judge continuing practice of law and maintaining office and firm name or letter head (9/16/53)
- **168 -** Superior court judge completing cases pending in other courts when appointed (6/10/53)
- **166** County judge preparing tax returns for individuals (1/14/53)
- 151 Judge completing unfinished legal business after taking office (11/30/50)
- **123** Letter to judge of supreme court expressing views on a case (10/30/36)
- **116 -** Ex-judge obtaining employment in a prior case (9/25/36)
- **101 -** Ex-judge accepting employment to obtain custody of a child after making an order determining the custody of the child (1/24/36)
- **100 -** Employment of former judge (12/26/35)
- **86 -** State bar, who are members, judges as members (their right to practice suspended and their obligation to continue to pay fees) (2/22/35)
- **82 -** Ex-judge accepting employment in any prior case (12/27/34)
- 70 Mayor as city attorney (5/25/34)
- **51 -** Relative of a judge who is a member of the bar requesting judge to fix or allow attorney's fees (3/24/33)
- **34** Judge engaging in the business of collecting claims (7/22/32)
- **27 -** Ex-judge or county lawyer (4/29/32)

# **Judgments**

- 33 Judgment is rendered against attorney's client, then attorney represents other parties in resisting a motion to vacate the judgment (6/24/32)
- **29** Purchase of collection claim (5/27/32)

# Jury

- **248 -** Jury inquired of by attorney after verdict (5/11/67)
- 216 Writing jurors following trial (12/14/61)

## **Law List**

- **143** Automobile association law list (3/8/50)
- 132 Advertising which solicits employment in the preparation of briefs (2/26/37)
- **126** Providing fees with lay forwarder (10/23/36)
- **120 -** Law lists that are unauthorized; carrying the card of attorney through inadvertence (9/24/36)
- **107** Dividing fees (3/27/36)
- 98 Law list in a magazine intended to circulate among insurance men (12/26/35)
- **97 -** Law lists and information that may be contained therein [same as opinion 96] (12/26/35)
- **96 -** References; legal listings (11/22/35)
- **95** Advertising or permitting name to be inserted in a law list distributed to laymen and corporations (11/22/35)
- **94** Advertising in a law list and a bonded list (9/27/35)

#### Lawyer as Witness

- **280** Firm representing an adverse party to a person that a former associate represented (6/22/74)
- **265** Attorney also acting as witness in a case (6/11/71)
- 252 Witness paying for actual financial loss incurred (11/9/67)
- **161 -** Client's attorney as the witness (10/8/52)

## Lay Person/Business/Organization

- 287 Lay supervision of attorneys (7/19/75)
- **249 -** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- **244** Trust officer/attorney as lay intermediary (9/16/66)
- **242 -** Attorney serving as a member of a panel sponsored by a lay group to advise members (6/25/66)
- **230 -** Education of lay public (7/15/65)

- **214** List of qualified examiners containing attorneys names (12/14/61)
- **147 -** Advertising for insurance business; lay insurance business operated by attorney (6/14/50)
- **145** Lay business conducted by member of the bar (4/12/50)
- **126** Providing fees with lay forwarder (10/23/36)
- **118 -** Letterheads containing that the firm is "insurance adjuster" but not the names of laymen adjusters that are employed (9/25/36)
- 117 Laymen practicing law or instituting an action; layman receiving authorization to practice from attorney (9/25/36)
- **107 -** Dividing fees (3/27/36)
- **95** Advertising or permitting name to be inserted in a law list distributed to laymen and corporations (11/22/35)
- **76** Lay business conducted by a member of the bar (7/27/34)
- **68 -** Accepting employment from a printing company representing to the customers that it employs attorney to do services a layman could not (2/23/34)
- **64 -** Barter or trade exchange of legal services for merchandise; use of touters to secure business by indirection or by the intervention of lay intermediaries (11/24/33)
- **63** Bar act codifies and substitutes all former statutes of the subjects covered therein and repeals all conflicting statutes; corporation appearing in justice courts through a duly licensed attorney; layman representing themself and representing others (11/24/33)
- **49 -** Contracts to represent individual members of a co-operative association (2/24/33)
- **48** Lay business conducted by a member of the bar (1/27/33)
- **30** Advertising after attorney's name in the telephone directory; insurance company enjoined from soliciting business; insurance company's layman preparing for or conducting trial cases before the industrial commission (5/27/32)**22** Soliciting business from members of the bar by another member (2/26/32)
- **16 -** Layman representing self or represented by a person other than a licensed member of the bar also applies to corporations (1/22/32)
- 4 Advertising as collection service and participating in laymen's practice (8/29/31)

### **Legal Services Organization**

- **273** Club employing attorney to answer questions of its members who pay for the service out of their dues (6/23/73)
- 262 Legal advice in reference book (4/23/71)
- **230 -** Education of lay public (7/15/65)
- 227 Classified directory listings (6/13/64)
- **226** City directory listings (4/16/64)

- **221 -** Trade association notifying member of attorney's successful presentation (10/18/62)
- **163** Advertising by county bar association (1/14/53)

# Letterhead

- **277** Use of degrees (3/22/74)
- 274 Using professions engaged in by attorney (6/23/73)
- **247 -** Advertising with degrees and referring to self as "Doctor" (5/11/67) [superseded by opinion 277]
- **231 -** Newspaper advertisement or letterhead containing the name of corporate general counsel (6/19/65)
- 189 Letterhead with areas of law (6/12/57)
- **186** Letterhead listing government client (6/12/57)
- **176** Rosters of civic club (8/4/54)
- **172 -** Judge continuing practice of law and maintaining office and firm name or letter head (9/16/53)
- **157** Letterheads (10/8/52)
- **118 -** Letterheads containing that the firm is "insurance adjuster" but not the names of laymen adjusters that are employed (9/25/36)

# **Membership**

- **273** Club employing attorney to answer questions of its members who pay for the service out of their dues (6/23/73)
- **262 -** Legal advice in reference book (4/23/71)
- **230 -** Education of lay public (7/15/65)
- 227 Classified directory listings (6/13/64)
- **226** City directory listings (4/16/64)
- **221 -** Trade association notifying member of attorney's sucessful presentation (10/18/62)
- **163** Advertising by county bar association (1/14/53)

### **Misconduct**

- 328 Indemnification provisions in settlements by plaintiff's counsel as to defendant and its insurer (11/22/11)
- **319 -** Non-lawyer assistant conducting the questioning of a witness at a deposition under the supervision of an attorney (Dec., 2002)
- 313 Ex parte contacts with eminent domain commissioners (9/15/00)
- 293 Suspended or disbarred attorney employed by another attorney (5/20/78)
- **292** Judges' and lawyers' care in their social relationships (6/22/77)

- **289** Attorney not admitted to practice in Oklahoma employed by an Oklahoma corporation (8/21/76)
- **260** Preventing unauthorized practice of law by attorney (3/19/71)
- **258 -** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)
- **249 -** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- 238 Buildings named law buildings (3/17/66)
- **234 -** Divorce attorney refusing to file decree or to furnish the decree until paid (11/11/65)
- 213 Professional corporation organized for the practice of law (12/14/61)
- 178 Appropriation of personalty by client (11/10/54)
- **175 -** Partnership between attorney and justice of the peace (12/9/53) (see also opin. # 162)
- **162** Partnership between attorney and justice of the peace (11/12/52)

# **Municipal**

- **305** Representation by a lawyer who is either an elected official or an employee (full or part-time) of a municipality or one of its departments, agencies or courts (12/18/92) [withdrawn 11-2004]
- **296** Private employment from a municipal board which the attorney had previously represented as a municipal employee (7/18/80)
- 282 Office sharing with city manager/attorney (10/18/74)
- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **70** Mayor as city attorney (5/25/34)

#### Name

- **300 -** Deceased firm members (9/18/81)
- **288** Using term "associates" (11/21/75)
- **276 -** Use of designation CPA and displaying certification of law and accounting (2/22/74)
- **263** Telephone listing under the name of professional corporation (5/22/71)
- **255** Listing style (8/22/68)
- **244** Trust officer/attorney as lay intermediary (9/16/66)
- 238 Buildings named law buildings (3/17/66)
- 236 Firm name on office doors and windows (2/16/66)
- 232 As general counsel for abstracting company (10/12/65)

- **231 -** Newspaper advertisement or letterhead containing the name of corporate general counsel (6/19/65)
- 226 City directory listings (4/16/64)
- 225 Chamber of commerce directory (4/16/64)
- 223 Name in newspaper article (11/15/63)
- **214** List of qualified examiners containing attorneys names (12/14/61)
- **211 -** Name appearing in bankruptcy auction notice (9/15/61)
- **204 -** Business cards (6/30/60)
- **183** Firm name containing false, misleading, assumed, or trade names (6/13/55)
- **180** Business card in newspaper (3/9/55)
- **172 -** Judge continuing practice of law and maintaining office and firm name or letter head (9/16/53)
- **152** Firm name remaining the same after partners death (11/30/50)
- **150** Attorney's picture with name and vocation (11/8/50)
- 143 Automobile association law list (3/8/50)
- **126** Providing fees with lay forwarder (10/23/36)
- **118 -** Letterheads containing that the firm is "insurance adjuster" but not the names of laymen adjusters that are employed (9/25/36)
- **117 -** Laymen practicing law or instituting an action; layman receiving authorization to practice from attorney (9/25/36)
- 99 Firm member's name used in the firm name after the member has died (12/26/35)
- 98 Law list in a magazine intended to circulate among insurance men (12/26/35)
- **95** Advertising or permitting name to be inserted in a law list distributed to laymen and corporations (11/22/35)
- 77 Firm member who is appointed to quasi-judicial office (9/21/34)
- 72 Accepting employment from agency with claim (6/22/34)
- **50** Advertising matter inserted after name in the classified section of a telephone directory (2/24/33)
- **45 -** Publication in connection with the attorney's name in a local newspaper (12/28/32)
- **30 -** Advertising after attorney's name in the telephone directory; insurance company enjoined from soliciting business; insurance company's layman preparing for or conducting trial cases before the industrial commission (5/27/32)
- **29 -** Purchase of collection claim (5/27/32)
- 20 Trust company drafting wills or giving advice (2/26/32)
- **17 -** Right to practice by non-residents; suspending non-residents for non-payment of dues; voluntarily striking own name from the roll of attorneys to prevent suspension for non-payment of dues (2/26/32)

#### **Negotiation**

- 177 Negotiation by attorney without opposing counsel (8/4/54)
- **39 -** Negotiations with opposing party when opposing attorney is claiming wrongful discharge (10/28/32)

# **Newspaper**

- **231 -** Newspaper advertisement or letterhead containing the name of corporate general counsel (6/19/65)
- 223 Name in newspaper article (11/15/63)
- **203 -** Newspaper story regarding personal life (11/2/59)
- **193** Newspaper feature story of attorney's life (2/10/58)
- **191 -** Photos and biographies in newspaper (9/11/57)
- **187** Newspaper photo of attorney (7/8/57)
- **180** Business card in newspaper (3/9/55)
- **179** Newspaper photo regarding recent judgment (3/9/55)
- **169 -** Newspaper announcements (6/10/53)
- 155 Advertising in a newspaper (11/29/51)
- **142 -** Publication in newspaper of articles explaining recent cases decided by appellate courts (5/27/38)
- **105** Advertising attorney's card in newspaper (2/28/36)
- **92** Advertising in the anniversary edition of a newspaper (9/27/35)
- **74 -** Advertising in a newspaper under a column headed "professional service: see these firms" (12/26/35)
- **50** Advertising matter inserted after name in the classified section of a telephone directory (2/24/33)
- **45 -** Publication in connection with the attorney's name in a local newspaper (12/28/32)
- **35** Advertising by an attorney in a card carried in a newspaper (7/22/32)
- 15 Advertising or soliciting in a newspaper ad (1/22/32)

# **Non-Adjudicative Proceeding**

- **312 -** Mandatory arbitration clauses in attorney-client contracts (8/18/00)
- **298** Executor and attorney for an estate (1980)

#### **Non-Lawyer Assistant**

- **319 -** Non-lawyer assistant conducting the questioning of a witness at a deposition under the supervision of an attorney (Dec., 2002)
- **293** Suspended or disbarred attorney employed by another attorney (5/20/78)
- **287 -** Lay supervision of attorneys (7/19/75)
- **260** Preventing unauthorized practice of law by attorney (3/19/71)

# **Office-Sharing**

- **282 -** Office sharing with city manager/attorney (10/18/74)
- **254 -** Office sharing (5/14/68)
- **88** Law associations with common offices (5/24/35)

## Office Sign

- **277** Use of degrees (3/22/74)
- **274** Using professions engaged in by attorney (6/23/73)
- **267 -** Signs (7/28/72)
- **185** Fee schedules by local bar association (1/25/35)
- **60** Specialization in any particular branch of the law (10/27/33)

# **Official**

- **305** Representation by a lawyer who is either an elected official or an employee (full or part-time) of a municipality or one of its departments, agencies or courts (12/18/92) [withdrawn 11-2004]
- **186** Letterhead listing government client (6/12/57)
- **137 -** Ex-official accepting employment in connection in matter which ex-official has investigated (9/17/37)
- **42 -** Ex-city attorney formerly an investigator (11/25/32)
- **13 -** County attorneys receiving compensation from private revisions (11/20/31)

## Organization as a Client

- **318 -** Aircraft company "in-house counsel" rendering title opinions for clients of the title company (Dec., 2002)
- **309 -** Representation of insured's by lawyers who are employees of a liability insurer (3/27/98)
- **291 -** Collecting attorney fees from special assessment districts (1977)
- **290** Acting as both title examiner and agent for the title insurance company (10/29/76)
- **289** Attorney not admitted to practice in Oklahoma employed by an Oklahoma corporation (8/21/76)
- **284** Attorney rendering opinion of validity of revenue bonds (2/17/75)
- **273** Club employing attorney to answer questions of its members who pay for the service out of their dues (6/23/73)
- **269** When acting on behalf of a creditor other than the agency itself (1/23/73)
- **258** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)

- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **244 -** Trust officer/attorney as lay intermediary (9/16/66)
- 232 As general counsel for abstracting company (10/12/65)
- **231 -** Newspaper advertisement or letterhead containing the name of corporate general counsel (6/19/65)
- **210 -** Bankruptcy representation of debtor financing company and accepting direct payment from a creditor by a bankrupt's attorney (9/15/61)
- 207 Appointment as special representative by life insurer (6/30/60)
- **170** Business directory of civic organization (6/10/53)
- **55** Labor organization employing counsel to represent individual members claims against their employers (6/23/33)
- **49 -** Contracts to represent individual members of a co-operative association (2/24/33)
- **31 -** Associated business engaged in by attorney (5/27/32)

#### **Partnership**

- **283 -** Professional corporation which becomes a partner in the law partnership in which the attorney was formerly a partner (11/22/74)
- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **249** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- **246 -** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **195** Announcement that attorney is reorganizing law partnership, change of address, return from government service, and opening an office (5/5/58)
- **184 -** Contact with law partner (3/14/56)
- **175 -** Partnership between attorney and justice of the peace (12/9/53) (see also opin. # 162)
- **162** Partnership between attorney and justice of the peace (11/12/52)
- **152** Firm name remaining the same after partners death (11/30/50)
- **149** Testimony by attorney who overheard partner (10/11/50)
- 77 Firm member who is appointed to quasi-judicial office (9/21/34)
- **21 -** Group of lawyers who hold themselves out as a partnership when no partnership exists (12/26/32)

# **Professional Independence**

**298** - Executor and attorney for an estate (8/21/76)

- **290** Acting as both title examiner and agent for the title insurance company (10/29/76)
- **284** Attorney rendering opinion of validity of revenue bonds (2/17/75)
- **283** Professional corporation which becomes a partner in the law partnership in which the attorney was formerly a partner (11/22/74)
- **282 -** Office sharing with city manager/attorney (10/18/74)
- **276 -** Use of designation CPA and displaying certification of law and accounting (2/22/74)
- **272 -** Using laudatory stories (6/23/73)
- **258 -** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)
- **254 -** Office sharing (5/14/68)
- **251 -** Splitting fees with collection agency (9/14/67)
- **249 -** Business activities of member of the bar; division of real estate commissions between lawyer and nonlawyer; partnership between attorney and lay person in a real estate business (5/11/67)
- **246** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **240** Lawyer as insurance adjuster communicating with opposing party (3/17/66)
- 238 Buildings named law buildings (3/17/66)
- 232 As general counsel for abstracting company (10/12/65)
- 215 County attorney continuing law practice (12/14/61)
- 213 Professional corporation organized for the practice of law (12/14/61)
- **198 -** Skip tracer attorney offering services as a skip tracer (8/13/59)
- **190** City attorney's office in City Hall (3/13/58)
- **165** Law related businesses (1/14/53)
- **164** Associated business of preparing tax returns (1/14/53)

#### **Prosecutorial Responsibility**

- **246 -** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **222 -** Public prosecutor who assisted in prosecution of a defendant acquitted on grounds of insanity (11/15/63)
- **156** Using county attorney office as collection agency (10/8/52)

#### **Prospective Client**

- **250** Advertising or soliciting by circulars through touter, personal communication or interviews (5/11/67)
- 243 Direct or indirect advertising or soliciting by an attorney (6/25/66)

- **242** Attorney serving as a member of a panel sponsored by a lay group to advise members (6/25/66)
- 237 Professional announcements (2/16/66)
- **230** Education of lay public (7/15/65)
- 218 Announcements of new offices (6/14/62)
- **209 -** Reminders to update will (9/15/61)
- **208** Solicitation as an attorney and accountant (2/9/61)
- **206** Indirect advertisment via Christmas card (6/30/60)
- **195** Announcement that attorney is reorganizing law partnership, change of address, return from government service, and opening an office (5/5/58)
- **184 -** Contact with law partner (3/14/56)
- **181 -** Touters (6/15/55)
- **167** Announcement by attorney who is resuming the practice of law (6/10/53)

# **Purchase**

- **316** Estate planning and trust attorney (1) offer to sell to the client financial products or (2) refer the client to a business in which the attorney owns an interest (Dec., 2001)
- **290** Attorney recommending to client the purchase of title insurance, and thereafter acting as both title examiner and agent for the title insurance company (10/29/76)
- **284** Attorney rendering opinion of validity of revenue bonds (2/17/75)
- **281 -** Title insurance company having an attorney as an agent (9/21/74) [replaced by opinion 290]

#### Recording

**307** - Recording telephone conversations

#### Relative

- **246 -** Judge sitting in cases where former partner is counsel; practice of law by assistant district attorney in civil law (2/23/67)
- **51 -** Relative of a judge who is a member of the bar requesting judge to fix or allow attorney's fees (3/24/33)

### Reporting

- **259 -** Between a government appeals agent in the Selective Service System and registrant (5/23/70)
- 223 Name in newspaper article (11/15/63)
- **120 -** Law lists that are unauthorized; carrying the card of attorney through inadvertence (9/24/36)

# **Restriction on Right To Practice**

- **292** Judges' and lawyers' care in their social relationships (6/22/77)
- **289** Attorney not admitted to practice in Oklahoma employed by an Oklahoma corporation (8/21/76)
- **264** Legal intern doing what the supreme court licensed them to. (5/22/71)
- **240** Lawyer as insurance adjuster communicating with opposing party (3/17/66)
- **172 -** Judge continuing practice of law and maintaining office and firm name or letter head (9/16/53)
- **166** County judge preparing tax returns for individuals (1/14/53)
- **156** Using county attorney office as collection agency (10/8/52)

#### Retainer

- **257 -** Partner/associate of an attorney representing a board/commission of a municipality (5/15/69)
- **184 -** Contact with law partner (3/14/56)
- **141** Attorney representing a loan business on retainer (10/26/37)
- **131 -** Accepting employment from a client who has previously discharged other attorney (2/26/37)
- **125 -** Soliciting by obtaining a copy of a petition filed against a defendant and mailing it to the defendant with the invitation to call on the attorney if in need of any service (10/23/36)

# **Safekeeping Property**

**297** - Mortgage or security interest in the property of client acquired by attorney to secure fee (5/16/80)

#### **Scope**

- **312 -** Mandatory arbitration clauses in attorney-client contracts (8/18/00)
- **270** Life insurer appointing attorney as a special representative and advertising such (1/23/73)
- 178 Appropriation of personalty by client (11/10/54)

#### **Settlement**

- **320 -** Requirements of an attorney listing an advertisment, specific amounts awarded by jury verdict or settlement
- **38 -** Settlement with opposing client directly when attorney knows that the opposing party is represented by another member of the bar (10/28/32)

# **Sexual Relations**

- **311 -** Sexual relations with clients (10/16/98)
- **308 -** Sexual relations with clients (12/9/94) [withdrawn 3/17/95]

#### **Solicitation**

- **329** Offering to prepare a lien for medical providers (2012)
- **310 -** Solicitation by lawyers (3/27/98)
- 243 Direct or indirect advertising or soliciting by an attorney (6/25/66)
- **242 -** Attorney serving as a member of a panel sponsored by a lay group to advise members (6/25/66)
- **230 -** Education of lay public (7/15/65)
- **165** Law related businesses (1/14/53)
- **147 -** Advertising for insurance business; lay insurance business operated by attorney (6/14/50)
- 119 Investigation of claims even though no adjustment occurs (9/24/36)
- **115 -** Pardon, parole, or leave of absence for a convict as employment for attorney (9/24/36)
- **31 -** Associated business engaged in by attorney (5/27/32)
- 22 Soliciting business from members of the bar by another member (2/26/32)

### **Specialization**

- **148 -** Specialization in preparing taxes by attorney; advising clients by letter; soliciting clients business and contacting clients (6/14/50)
- 114 Attorney who prepared will as witness in will contest (9/25/36)
- **60** Specialization in any particular branch of the law (10/27/33)

#### **Terminating Representation**

- **234 -** Divorce attorney refusing to file decree or to furnish the decree until paid (11/11/65)
- **144** Termination of employment by client (4/12/50)

### **Trial Publicity**

- 235 Enforcement and dealing with civil matters; publicity in a case (2/16/66)
- 223 Name in newspaper article (11/15/63)
- **203** Newspaper story regarding personal life (11/2/59)
- 187 Newspaper photo of attorney (7/8/57)
- 179 Newspaper photo regarding recent judgment (3/9/55)

#### **Trust Accounts**

**303** - Interest on clients funds deposited in a trust account (1986)

**258 -** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)

# **Unauthorized Practice**

- **289** Attorney not admitted to practice in Oklahoma employed by an Oklahoma corporation (8/21/76)
- **264** Legal intern doing what the supreme court licensed them to (5/22/71)
- **260** Preventing unauthorized practice of law by attorney (3/19/71)
- **258** Ownership of business where trust is organized for creating an attorney title opinion fund (10/17/69)
- **244** Trust officer/attorney as lay intermediary (9/16/66)
- **242 -** Attorney serving as a member of a panel sponsored by a lay group to advise members (6/25/66)
- **120 -** Law lists that are unauthorized; carrying the card of attorney through inadvertence (9/24/36)
- **2** Unauthorized practice of law (7/24/31)

# **Unrepresented Person**

- **304 -** Ex parte communications with physician for adverse party (11/17/89)
- 243 Direct or indirect advertising or soliciting by an attorney (6/25/66)
- **242 -** Attorney serving as a member of a panel sponsored by a lay group to advise members (6/25/66)
- 212 Communication with represented town board (9/15/61)
- 177 Negotiation by attorney without opposing counsel (8/4/54)

#### **Verdict**

- **248** Jury inquired of by attorney after verdict (5/11/67)
- 216 Writing jurors following trial (12/14/61)

### Will

- **266** Attorney representing both the executrix of a will and another who is sole legatee (4/21/72)
- **209 -** Reminders to update will (9/15/61)
- 114 Attorney who prepared will as witness in will contest (9/25/36)
- 73 Representing testator and then claimant agianst will (6/22/34)
- **35** Advertising by an attorney in a card carried in a newspaper (7/22/32)
- 20 Trust company drafting wills or giving advice (2/26/32)

### Witness

- **319 -** Non-lawyer assistant conducting the questioning of a witness at a deposition under the supervision of an attorney (Dec., 2002)
- **280 -** Firm representing an adverse party to a person that a former associate represented (6/22/74)
- **265** Attorney also acting as witness in a case (6/11/71)
- 252 Witness paying for actual financial loss incurred (11/9/67)
- **161** Client's attorney as the witness (10/8/52)
- **138 -** Ex-county attorney accepting employment after term from the prosecuting witness in a divorce action (9/17/37)
- 128 Contingent witness fees (10/23/36)
- **114** Attorney who prepared will as witness in will contest (9/25/36)
- **9 -** County attorney or assistant testifying as a witness for the state in a criminal case wherein they appear as counsel for the state (10/30/31)