

MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Ethics Committee

DATE: December 4, 1997

5. CHAPTER 5: WHETHER LAWYER WHO IS PROSPECTIVE VENDOR OF LAW PRACTICE MAY PERMIT PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER TO EXAMINE CONFIDENTIAL CLIENT INFORMATION

The Committee was asked whether it is proper for a lawyer who is the prospective vendor of a law practice to disclose confidential client information to a lawyer who is a prospective purchaser. In the Committee's opinion, this practice would not be permitted. In the Committee's view, a lawyer would be able to give considerable information about a practice without disclosing confidential client information and where some disclosure was necessary, clients may be prepared to consent to the disclosure of some information. The Committee concluded that this is not a significantly pressing issue to warrant a change in the current rules.

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