

MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Ethics Committee

DATE: September 26, 1995

10. CHAPTER 9 RULE 2; LAW FIRM PARTICIPATION IN FEE PROMOTION

The Committee considered a letter from a lawyer inquiring whether the following arrangement is proper:

The lawyer has offices in the same building as a Credit Union and also acts for the Credit Union on various matters. The lawyer advised that the Credit Union and the lawyer "have a relationship of mutual referral." The Credit Union, as part of a promotion, wishes to give away coupons to its members which would entitle the Credit Union member to 1/2 hour of free advice from the lawyer. The lawyer would not be paid any fee by the Credit Union for giving the advice. The offer would be valid for two to three months. The lawyer has asked whether it would be proper to give advice to the Credit Union's members under this arrangement.

The Committee considered whether this arrangement was a violation of Chapter 9, Rule 2(b) since the offer may induce some people to become members of the Credit Union. The Committee was of the opinion that this was too remote to be considered "remuneration" within the meaning of the Rule and concluded that it was proper for the lawyer to provide the free advice in these circumstances.

(sep95min
revised 10/30))