

Practice Rules Compliance Committee

Discount Coupons - Practice Standard

Law Society Rules Part VIII - Professional Practice Rules

Prohibited Activities

8.09 (1) *A member shall not request or induce attention from or an interview by the media in relation to any judicial, quasi-judicial or other proceeding, hearing or meeting where the member is appearing in a legal capacity unless a client of the member has directed the member to make the request or inducement.*

(2) *A member shall not give or authorize or permit any person to give anything of value to a person for recommending a member's services.*

(3) *A member shall not write a letter seeking financial assistance on behalf of a charitable organization using the letterhead of his or her firm.*

Sharing of Fees

8.12 (1) *A member shall not provide to or receive from any real estate broker, agent or intermediary, any financial or other reward, direct or indirect, for directing or receiving clients to or from the real estate broker, agent or intermediary.*

(2) *A member shall not provide to or receive from any title insurer, agent or intermediary, any financial or other reward, direct or indirect for directing or receiving clients to or from the title insurer, agent or intermediary.*

(3) *A member shall not agree to share with any person who is not a member of the Society or the member of the bar of another province or territory of Canada with whom the member is associated in practice in an inter-jurisdictional firm licenced by Benchers, the member's revenues or profits in respect of any business either contentious or non-contentious.*

Code of Professional Conduct (2013) - Chapter 3, Section 3.6 Fees and Disbursements

Reasonable Fees and Disbursements

rule 3.6-7

A lawyer must not:

- (a) directly or indirectly share, split, or divide his or her fees with any person who is not a lawyer;*
- or*
- (b) give any financial or other reward for the referral of clients or client matters to any person who is not a lawyer.*

The Practice Rules Compliance Committee has been informed that some realtors are providing discount coupons, on behalf of a law firm, to prospective clients.

The Practice Rules Compliance Committee reminds members that the endorsement of and acceptance of discount coupons provided by a third party is contrary to Law Society Rules 8.09(2) and 8.12(1) and the Code of Professional Conduct, 2013, chapter 3, rule 3.6-7.

Members are directed to adhere to the practice standard prescribed by the Law Society Rules and the Code of Professional Conduct (2013).

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