

## RESOURCES FOR PARTNERSHIP WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

### Helpful Ethics Opinions

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?

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

For resource material on dissolving or withdrawing from a partnership, see the following publications from the ABA Law Practice Division:

- [\*The Essential Formbook: Comprehensive Management Tools for Lawyers\*](#)

ABA Web store materials are sold at a discount by the PLF. For more information, visit the PLF website, [www.osbplf.org](http://www.osbplf.org).

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

The following resources are available on the PLF website, [www.osbplf.org](http://www.osbplf.org):

- Closing a Law Office - Checklists, sample letters, resources
- Departing a Firm – Checklists, sample letters, ethics opinions, resources, and information for partners departing a firm
- Retiring from Law Practice - Checklist and resources
- Selling Your Practice – Checklist and resources

### 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.

## RESOURCES FOR PARTNERSHIP WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

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

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