

KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION
Ethics Opinion KBA E-367
Issued: June 1994

The Rules of Professional Conduct are amended periodically. Lawyers should consult the current version of the rules and comments, SCR 3.130 (available at <http://www.kybar.org>) and the Attorneys' Advertising Commission Regulations, before relying on this opinion.

Question: May an Attorney offer gifts or incentives to Realtors to encourage the Realtors to request that lenders refer real estate closings to Attorney's office?

Answer: No.

References: Kentucky Rule of Professional Conduct 7.20(2)

OPINION

The question states that something of value will be offered to Realtors for recommendations and referrals. This proposal violates Rule 7.20(2), which provides: "A lawyer shall not give anything of value to a non-lawyer for recommending the lawyers services, except that a lawyer may pay the reasonable cost of advertising or communication permitted by this rule."

Note to Reader

This ethics opinion has been formally adopted by the Board of Governors of the Kentucky Bar Association under the provisions of Kentucky Supreme Court Rule 3.530 (or its predecessor rule). The Rule provides that formal opinions are advisory only.