

KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION
Ethics Opinion KBA E-172
Issued: November 1977

This opinion was decided under the Code of Professional Responsibility, which was in effect from 1971 to 1990. Lawyers should consult the current version of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Comments, SCR 3.130 (available at <http://www.kybar.org>), before relying on this opinion.

Question: May a law firm accept major credit cards as a method of payment for legal services performed by that firm?

Answer: Yes.

Reference: ABA Formal Opinion 338 (1974)

OPINION

A lawyer may participate as a payee in a credit card plan provided:

- (1) All publicity and advertising relating to the plan has been approved in writing by the Kentucky Bar Association;
- (2) No publication of any kind is made of the names of lawyers or law firms who subscribed to the plan;
- (3) The lawyer does nothing to promote use of the plan except a discrete indication in his office that payment through the plan is acceptable; and
- (4) The lawyer makes no agreement that obliges him or may oblige him to violate any rule of legal ethics. E.g., he could not agree to supply credit information concerning his clients and he could not make an unqualified agreement to permit inspection of his books and records.

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.