1. Sally Solo is a solo practitioner. She previously represented Carla Client in handling an adoption and preparing a will. Carla was seriously hurt in an accident and sought to retain Sally to represent her. Sally realized she did not have the resources or expertise to handle the case by herself, so with Carla’s permission, she associated Leo Litigator to work with her on the case. They entered into a written fee agreement with Carla, setting out how the contingent fee would be calculated. They also explained the fee split to Carla and received her written consent. As Carla agreed, Sally was to get 25% of the fee, which would be based on the amount of recovery. Sally was not likely to do anywhere near 25% of the work. The total fee likely to be charged is reasonable.

Is Sally subject to discipline for entering into the agreement with Leo?

A. No, because she obtained Carla’s consent
B. No, because Leo is not a non-lawyer
C. Yes, because she is taking a fee that is not in proportion to the work she will perform
D. Yes, unless she assumes joint responsibility for the representation

2. Lawyer represented Client pursuant to a written retainer agreement that provided for Client to pay Lawyer $2000 per month until the work was completed. The fee was reasonable in the circumstances. After several months, but well before the work was completed, Client stopped paying Lawyer, claiming he had financial problems.

Is it proper for Lawyer to withdraw from the matter, which is not before a tribunal?

A. No, unless withdrawal can be accomplished without material adverse effect on Client
B. No, unless Lawyer gives reasonable warning of her intent to withdraw unless she is paid
C. Yes, because Client failed to fulfill an obligation to Lawyer regarding her services
D. Yes, because Client breached a written agreement with Lawyer

3. Which of the following is true under the Model Rules?

A. All fee agreements must be in writing
B. A lawyer must attempt mediation by a fee resolution panel before suing a client for a fee
C. A lawyer may accept an ownership interest in an enterprise as part of a fee
D. Contingent fees are permissible in all but criminal cases
Lawyer met with a prospective client to discuss possible representation. The firm had no measures in place to limit the amount of information Lawyer received, and he and Client had a detailed conversation about the matter in which Client disclosed information that could be significantly harmful to him. Client chose not to hire Lawyer and retained someone else. Sometime later, Paul, one of Lawyer’s partners, was asked to represent Deft, the opposing party in Client’s case.

Is Paul subject to discipline if he represents Deft?

A  Yes, because Lawyer received information that could be significantly harmful to Client
B  Yes, unless Paul is screened from participation in the case
C  No, because Lawyer, not Paul, received the information
D  No, if the information he received was generally known
Answer Key: Attorney-Client Relationship Questions

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