



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

Public Information Office

Lawyers Fund for Client Security

If a lawyer steals money or property from a client, how can the client recover on the loss?

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court created the Lawyers Fund for Client Security in 1982 to cover some or all of the losses that can result when lawyers misappropriate money or property from clients.

The Lawyers Fund for Client Security has paid more than \$33 million in awards to thousands of claimants since it was established. Reimbursements are capped at \$75,000 per claimant.

Lawyers found to have misused client funds represent a small minority—about one percent—of all lawyers licensed to practice in Pennsylvania. Those who engage in such misconduct are subject to sanction by the state Disciplinary Board, which enforces the Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyers, or censure, suspension or disbarment by the Supreme Court.

The money used to pay claims of clients who have been victimized by their lawyers comes from an annual assessment paid by every licensed lawyer in Pennsylvania. The assessment is set by the Supreme Court. No tax money is used.

A seven-member board appointed by the Supreme Court, consisting of five lawyers and two non-lawyers, administers the fund.

For more information, call 1-800-962-4618 or visit the Lawyers Fund for Client Security Web site at www.palawfund.com.