



## Ethics Alert

### Understanding the Client Trust Account Rules: The Tools for New Lawyers

Welcome to the Illinois bar! We at the ARDC assist the Supreme Court of Illinois in regulating the legal profession. One of our important responsibilities is the education of Illinois lawyers about their ethical obligations. We periodically publish e-alerts on current issues of importance to the profession in order to enable Illinois lawyers to better serve their clients and steer clear of disciplinary grievances. The following alert deals with trust accounting concepts essential to the proper handling of client funds and avoidance of disciplinary problems. Please take advantage of the online and telephone resources listed below.

[Rule 1.15 Safekeeping Property](#)

[ARDC Client Trust Account Handbook](#) (rev. July 2011)

[Understanding the New Client Trust Account Requirements](#) (Sept. 2011, CBA Record) reprinted with permission of the Chicago Bar Association

Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois (IOLTA accounts) - [www.ltf.org](http://www.ltf.org)

[CLE Seminar on the New Requirements of Amended Rule 1.15](#) (1.0 hr. MCLE/PCLE credit)

[List of Financial Institutions Eligible to Hold Client Trust Accounts](#)

[Trust Account Overdraft Notification Agreement](#)

[Sample Recordkeeping Account Journals](#)

[Trust Account Software Resources](#)

#### **Additional Information**

The ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program provides research assistance and guidance to lawyers regarding ethics issues. For further information about the trust property requirements or other concerns about the ethical responsibilities of lawyers in Illinois, please call the ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program at either of the ARDC's offices at the

telephone numbers listed below. Additional information about the ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program can be obtained at [www.iardc.org/ethics.html](http://www.iardc.org/ethics.html).



Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC)

[www.iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org)

312/565-2600 or 800/826-8625 (Chicago office) or 217/522-6838 or 800/252-8048  
(Springfield office)

This email is prepared by the ARDC to provide information on current developments of interest to the legal profession in Illinois and is intended to educate Illinois lawyers on their ethical duties. Please do not reply to this email.