

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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At the Supreme Judicial Court holden at Boston within and  
for said Commonwealth on the twentieth day of June, in the year  
two thousand and sixteen:

present,

<u>HON. RALPH D. GANTS</u>	)	Chief Justice
	)	
<u>HON. FRANCIS X. SPINA</u>	)	
	)	
<u>HON. ROBERT J. CORDY</u>	)	Justices
	)	
<u>HON. MARGOT BOTSFORD</u>	)	
	)	
<u>HON. FERNANDE R.V. DUFFLY</u>	)	
	)	
<u>HON. BARBARA A. LENK</u>	)	
	)	
<u>HON. GERALDINE S. HINES</u>	)	

ORDERED: That Chapter Three of the Rules of the Supreme  
Judicial Court of Massachusetts is hereby amended as follows:

Rule 3:07	By deleting Comment 3 to Mass. R. Prof. C. 5.4 and inserting in lieu thereof the new Comment 3 to Mass. R. Prof. C. 5.4, attached hereto.
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The amendment accomplished by this order shall take effect  
on August 1, 2016.

ORDERED:

<u>RALPH D. GANTS</u>	)	Chief Justice
	)	
<u>FRANCIS X. SPINA</u>	)	
	)	
	)	
<u>ROBERT J. CORDY</u>	)	Justices
	)	
	)	
<u>MARGOT BOTSFORD</u>	)	
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<u>FERNANDE R.V. DUFFLY</u>	)	
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<u>BARBARA A. LENK</u>	)	
	)	
	)	
<u>GERALDINE S. HINES</u>	)	

Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct  
Comment 3 to Rule 5.4:

[3] Rule 5.4(a)(4) explicitly permits a lawyer, with the client's consent, to share certain fees with a qualified legal assistance organization that has referred the matter to the lawyer. The financial needs of these organizations, which serve important public ends, justify a limited exception to the prohibition against fee-sharing with nonlawyers. Should abuses occur in the carrying out of such arrangements, they may constitute a violation of Rule 5.4(c) or Rule 8.4(d) or (h). The permission to share fees granted by this Rule is not intended to restrict the ability of those qualified legal assistance organizations that engage in the practice of law themselves to receive a share of another lawyer's legal fees pursuant to Rule 1.5(e).