

unprofessional conduct and grounds of disbarment for any attorney to violate any of the provisions of the oath prescribed by this section; or to stir up strife and litigation; or to hunt up causes of action and inform thereof, in order to be employed to bring suit, or to breed litigation by seeking out those having claims for personal injuries or other grounds of action in order to secure them as clients; or to employ agents or runners for like purposes or to pay or reward, directly or indirectly, those who bring or influence the bringing of such cases or business to his office or to remunerate policemen, court or prison officials, physicians, hospital attaches or others who may succeed in influencing the criminal, the sick, the injured, the ignorant or others to seek his professional services.

(3) Any contract of employment obtained or made in violation of this section shall be absolutely void as to the attorney; but the client may recover any compensation paid thereunder to or for or received by the attorney on account of such employment. The attorney shall not be allowed to prosecute or defend the action or proceeding contemplated by such employment.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved July 28, 1927.

No. 532, S.]

[Published July 30, 1927.]

CHAPTER 458.

AN ACT to amend section 256.31 of the statutes, relating to the practice of law and providing a penalty.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 256.31 of the statutes is amended to read: 256.31 No person shall in any manner hold himself out as an attorney, counselor, lawyer, solicitor, or proctor, or represent himself either verbally or in writing, directly or indirectly, as authorized to practice law in this state, unless such person is regularly licensed to practice in the courts of this state. The use of the words attorney at law, lawyer, solicitor, counselor, attorney and counselor, proctor, law office, or other equivalent words by any person in connection with his own name or any sign, adver-

tisement, business card, letterhead, circular, notice, or other writing, document or design, the evident purpose of which is to induce others to believe and understand such person to be regularly licensed to practice law in the courts of this state, is a holding out within the meaning of this section. *Every person whose business it is for fee or reward to prosecute or defend causes in any court of record or other judicial tribunal of the United States or of any of the states, or give advice in relation to causes or matters therein pending, shall be deemed to be holding himself out as an attorney within the meaning of this section.* Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved July 28, 1927.

No. 533, S.]

[Published July 30, 1927.

CHAPTER 459.

AN ACT to create section 256.45 of the statutes, relating to fee splitting by attorneys and providing penalties.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. A new section is added to the statutes to read: 256.45 Any attorney who shall claim, or demand, and collect or receive any money or other thing of value as compensation for his professional services in any action or special proceedings, and who shall promise or pay or deliver or cause to be paid or delivered any money or other consideration to or otherwise split his fees with any person not a practicing attorney as compensation for such person's aid, advice or assistance in having such action or special proceedings handled by such attorney or in being professionally retained, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months. Such conviction