



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**PROTECT CLIENT DATA WHEN ACCEPTING PAYMENTS VIA DIGITAL
WALLET**

COLUMBUS OHIO, September 12, 2017 - A mobile payment app, such as [VENMO](#), can provide a free digital wallet to allow payments between friends and trusted individuals. Mobile payment apps may use Facebook or similar platforms. However, if a lawyer uses a mobile payment app, the lawyer must still protect the client confidences as required by [Prof Cond R 1.6](#). If a lawyer wishes to use a digital wallet such as VENMO to accept payments from clients there are several steps the lawyer should consider: Be sure to follow the terms and conditions of any User Agreement Go to settings and indicate the transaction from the client is to be viewed "only by me" to protect the privacy of the client NOTE: If there are past transactions, they should also be made private Specify in the Fee Contract that a digital wallet or mobile payment app, such as VENMO, is acceptable for paying legal fees and expenses Require in the Fee Contract that the client also go to settings and set the transaction with the lawyer to be viewed "only by me." Go to settings under banks & accounts and direct the payment to the proper account: If receiving client funds, such as a retainer, the lawyer should direct payment to the lawyer's IOLTA If receiving payment on an invoice for earned fees, the lawyer should direct payment to the lawyer's office account If there is only one account, funds may be directed to the IOLTA and immediately transferred to the office account. See [Op 2007-3](#) Please note this is not an endorsement of this method of payment in general or this app in particular. This information is provided for loss prevention purposes by OBLIC to provide information to assist lawyers using technology within the [Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct](#). If you have any questions about this or any other loss prevention topic, please contact: Gretchen Koehler Mote, Esq., Director of Loss Prevention Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company Direct Phone Line: 614.572.0620

OBLIC is dedicated to protecting Ohio lawyers and their clients and has carried this mission for over three decades. OBLIC was incorporated on December 5, 1978 and commenced operations on September 1, 1979. The company was formed in response to an ongoing insurance crisis among Ohio attorneys. OBLIC's headquarters are located at 1650 Lake Shore Drive in Columbus, Ohio.