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Silence Is Not Always Golden: When a Partner's Instructions Go Unchallenged and an Associate's Obligation to Speak Up, DRI's The Whisper

Co-Authored by Joel Shackelford (November 12, 2012)

Success for newly minted attorneys generally depends on following directions of senior attorneys and successfully performing the tasks they dictate. Prosperity for the young associate is generally not had by questioning a senior attorney's instructions. However, what happens when an associate's managing or supervising attorney asks the associate to do something that is improper, crosses ethical lines, or just doesn't feel "right?" When, if ever, should the junior attorney speak up?