2020

Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility

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Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility: Home

This selective guide highlights major print and electronic resources available to Cleveland Marshall Law School students researching laws and issues regarding the conduct, duties, and obligations of attorneys and judges.

Please contact the Law Library's Research Services librarians during their Research Services hours, or via email to research.services@law.csuohio.edu for help with locating or using any of the resources discussed in this guide.

Recommended Resource

- ABA/BNA lawyers' manual on professional conduct

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ABA Resources

ABA Rules and Guides

- ABA/BNA lawyers' manual on professional conduct
- Annotated Model Rules of Professional Conduct
  Also available via Westlaw.
- Annotated Model Rules of Professional Conduct
  KF305.A16 A482 2007
- Compendium of Client Protection Rules
  KF314.C45 C66 2011
- Lawyer Law: Comparing the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct with the ALI
  Restatement (Third) of the Law Governing Lawyers
  KF306 .M667 2005
- The Attorney-Client Privilege and the Work-Product Doctrine
  2007 to current. KF8959.A7 E67 2007
- A Century of Legal Ethics : Trial Lawyers and the ABA Canons of Professional Ethics
  KF305 .C46 2009
- Model Code of Judicial Conduct
  KF8779.A15 M63
- Reporters' Notes to the Model Code of Judicial Conduct
  KF8779 .G49 2009

ABA Center For Professional Responsibility

Membership in the ABA Center For Professional Responsibility provides the following benefits:

- "Members Only" online resources, including an ethics opinion library, articles, and course materials from our annual National Conference on Professional Responsibility.
- Quarterly issues of The Professional Lawyer magazine and its annual Journal, featuring updates and analysis on professional responsibility law and programs.
- ETHICSearch research service, a complimentary service staffed by attorney ethics experts.
- Revised hard copy editions of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct as they are published.

Ohio Resources

Ohio Professional Responsibility and Professionalism Resources

- Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct
  Effective Feb. 1, 2007
  Supersedes the Ohio Rules of Court: Code of Professional Responsibility (See Anderson's The Law of Professional Conduct in Ohio, by L. Snyder, S. Becker, J Guttenberg).
- Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism
  Ohio Bar Rule XV: Commission on Professionalism
Ohio Ethics Commission
Another Ohio source for ethics information, the Ohio Ethics Commission promotes ethics in public service to strengthen the public's confidence that Government business is conducted with impartiality and integrity. The Commission has jurisdiction over Ohio's public officials and employees at the state and local levels of government, except legislators, judges, and their staffs. The Commission issues Advisory Opinions and has since 1974.

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association: Filing a Complaint Against an Attorney

Ethics Hotline
The Ethics Hotline is available to members of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association who have questions about their own prospective conduct as it relates to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct. Questions may be answered by the Association's Legal Department or a member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

Resources available at the Association are limited to advisory ethics opinions and ethics materials. Often times, the advisory opinions that exist are not directly on point with a question asked, but instead bear indirectly on the conduct or implicate similar provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct. It is always suggested that members supplement these materials with their own statutory and case law research. Any information or analysis provided should be considered only as information that may factor into the member's own analysis and independent decision-making process. Members must exercise their own professional judgment in every situation.
Court Opinions

- Ohio Supreme Court Cases
  Contain Supreme Court rulings on recommendations of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, where one can find facts concerning a disciplinary action against an attorney. Search any database containing Ohio Supreme Court opinions, or try Lexis OH Ethics Cases, or Westlaw OHETHCS. Besides disciplinary cases, there are other cases dealing with ethics issues, such as malpractice, contempt, ineffective assistance of counsel, etc.

- Lexis OH Ethics Cases and Westlaw
  Also contain appellate and some trial court opinions which touch on legal ethics

Advisory Opinions

Note that other local bar associations may issue advisory opinions.

- Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline's Advisory Ethics Opinions
- Ohio Supreme Court Website
  1986-current

- Ohio State Bar Formal and Informal Opinions
  On Casemaker, 1995-current. Casemaker Ohio Ethics Opinion database also includes Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline Advisory Opinions. Both informal and formal opinions are advisory. Formal opinions are reviewed by the entire Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Conduct, while informal opinions are issued by a smaller subcommittee.

- Cleveland Bar Ethics & Professionalism Committee
- Ohio Ethics Commission Advisory Opinions
  Ethics for Ohio public officials and government employees

- Commission Web Site
  1974-present

- Westlaw
  1977-

- Lexis Advance
  Oct. 1974-present

- Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Advisory Opinions
  The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee serves as the ethics advisory committee for Ohio's legislative branch of government. The bipartisan committee carries out its mission through the Office of the Legislative Inspector General ("OLIG"). The focus of the OLIG is to provide legal advice and guidance to prevent ethics violations. (also on Ohio Capital Connection, 1995 - )

Bar Associations

Bar Associations provide opportunities to network and work for the betterment of the profession, the community, or a particular specialty. Select the links below to find membership information and applications.
American Bar Association
The largest voluntary professional association in the world, the ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public. The ABA offers student memberships. Membership includes many helpful benefits. For information regarding the ABA's Center for Professional Responsibility click here.

Federal Bar Association
Professional organization for private and government lawyers and judges involved in federal practice. The FBA gives its 16,000 members a chance to meet at regional and national conferences, become active in informed discussion of substantive law issues, assume leadership positions at the local and national level, and network with other professionals in the field of federal law. The FBA-NDOC is the local Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) serving members in the Northern District of Ohio. Its mission is to advance the science of jurisprudence and to promote the welfare, interests, education, and professional growth and development of the members of the Federal legal profession.

Ohio State Bar Association
The Ohio State Bar Association, founded in 1880, is a voluntary professional association open to any person who has been admitted to the practice of law. Law school students and paralegals/legal assistants are eligible for membership in the OSBA as associate members. Mission Statement: Our core purpose: To advance the professional interests of members of the Ohio State Bar Association. Our core values: Member satisfaction, professionalism, foresight, and quality services and products. Our goal: To make membership in the Ohio State Bar Association indispensable to Ohio lawyers. The Ohio State Bar Association offers free law student memberships.

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
Founded in 1873, the over 5000-member Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association is a private, non-profit organization which provides a wide variety of membership services and operates as a center for legal professionalism in the region by educating the bar, providing resources that enhance client service and by promoting integrity and ethical behavior among lawyers. The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association was one of the first bar associations in the nation, even predating the Ohio State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and is currently the largest metropolitan provider of legal seminars in Ohio. The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association offers free law student memberships.

Norman S. Minor Bar Association
The Norman S. Minor Bar Association (NSMBA) was founded in 1980 as Cleveland's first full-fledged African American bar association. It grew out of the merger of four African American professional groups and is named in honor of one of Cleveland's foremost trial attorneys.

Ohio Association for Justice
Mission Statement: To seek justice for all...To Champion the cause of those who deserve redress for injury to person or property...To promote the public good through concerted efforts to secure safe products, a safe workplace, a clean environment, and quality health care...To further the rule of law and the civil justice system, and to protect the rights of the accused...To inspire excellence in advocacy through training and education...To encourage cooperation among members...To advance the common law and finest traditions of jurisprudence...To uphold the honor and dignity of the legal profession and the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity. The Ohio Association for Justice offers student memberships.

Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
The Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (OACDL), founded in 1986, is a professional association with over 525 members.
around the state. OACDL is an advocate of progressive criminal laws and policies that are consistent with constitutional principles, limited government intrusion into the lives of Americans, and a free society. The Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers offers student memberships.

- Ohio Women's Bar Association
  Purpose and goals: Fostering communications and networking among women attorneys; Promoting and advancing professional opportunities for women attorneys; Promoting the appointment and selection of women to various federal, state and local positions of influence; Promoting women as leaders; Promoting and providing continuing legal education targeting areas of particular interest to women attorneys; Monitoring and supporting government legislation policies and practices affecting women; Serving as a statewide resource representing perspectives of women in the legal profession. The Ohio Women's Bar Association offers student memberships.

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<tr>
<th>Journal Articles/Websites</th>
<th>Sources on the Web</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Law Reviews &amp; Journals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Findlaw's Practice Guide</strong></td>
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<td>See Finding Law Review and Journal Articles for an explanation of the legal periodical indexes and databases available to Cleveland-Marshall College of Law students and the CSU community.</td>
<td>The Practice Guide section of FindLaw's Law Firm Management Center provides free resources dedicated to operational and risk management issues encountered by solo and small law firm practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected journals or current awareness materials in Ethics &amp; Professional Responsibility Law include:</td>
<td><strong>Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute: Wex - Ethics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics</td>
<td>&quot;Wex is an ambitious effort to construct a collaboratively-created, public-access law dictionary and encyclopedia. It is sponsored and hosted by the Legal Information Institute at the Cornell Law School.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics &amp; Public Policy</td>
<td><strong>Hieros Gamos: Practice of Law</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Professional Lawyer: PL 1989 - Annual. KF300.A1 P76</td>
<td><strong>Advertising Rules in all 50 States</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Journal of the Professional Lawyer 2008- Annual. KF300.A2 P763</td>
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<td>- Photo by Brent (SeeMidTN.com)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vol</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Page</th>
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Get Citation

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Treatises
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<tr>
<th>Treatises &amp; Practice Guides</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Modern Legal Ethics" /></td>
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- **Restatement of the Law, the Law Governing Lawyers**  
  2000 to current  
  KF300 .R469

- **The Law of Lawyering**  
  KF306 .H333

- **Attorney Client Privilege in the United States**  
  KF8959.A7 R522

- **The Attorney-Client Privilege in Civil Litigation: Protecting and Defending Confidentiality**  

- **Legal Malpractice**  
  KF313 .L44

- **Lawyer Disqualification: Conflicts of Interest and Other Bases**  
  KF306 .F53 2003

- **Divorce Lawyers at Work: Varieties of Professionalism in Practice**  
  KF535 .M38 2001

- **The Lawyer's Myth: Reviving Ideals in the Legal Profession**  
  KF297 .B4 2001

- **Tangled Loyalties: Conflict of Interest in Legal Practice**  
  KF300 .S43 2002

- **Modern Legal Ethics, Hornbook Series**  
  KF306 .W59s

- **Alternative Perspectives on Lawyers and Legal Ethics: Reimagining the Profession**  
  K123 .A95 2011

- **Lawyers in Practice: Ethical Decision Making in Context**  
  K123 .L395 2012
### Study Aids

#### CALI Lessons

To register for online interactive CALI lessons, see Law Student Registration Instructions.

Below are included some specific lessons on legal ethics:

- Appellate Briefs: Ethical and Professional Considerations
  - [more...](#)
- Basis for Attorney Discipline
  - [more...](#)
- Email Correspondence: Ethical and Professional Considerations
  - [more...](#)
- Fees
  - [more...](#)
- Model Rules of Professional Conduct I: Preliminary Drill
  - [more...](#)
- The Law Governing Admission to Practice Law
  - [more...](#)

#### Study Aids

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Ethics in a Nutshell</td>
<td>KF306.Z9</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Lawyers' Ethics</td>
<td>KF306 .F76</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions and Answers: Professional Responsibility</td>
<td>KF306 .L66</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Responsibility: Examples and Explanations</td>
<td>KF306 .W46</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Responsibility</td>
<td>KF306 .R682</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell</td>
<td>KF273 .H4</td>
<td>2017</td>
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Sound Recordings

- Professional responsibility [sound recording] - Outstanding Professor Series
  KF305 .D54 2004
- Professional Responsibility : Law School Legends on Audio CD
  KF306 .C52 2010

Tags: bar associations, legal ethics, legal practice, professional responsibility, professionalism