

Ethics of Freelance Legal Services

Issues and Best Practices

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³ Your speaker

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Purpose of this course

Define **freelance legal services**

Ethical issues involved:

- Conflicts
- Confidentiality
- Compensation
- Supervision

Citations to Texas DRules 1.02 (b); 1.04; 1.05; 1.09; --Model Rules 2-107(A)- Divisions of Fees; 4-101 (C) Disclosure; 5-101 Conflicts

What does freelance mean?

Freelance includes all of these other terms:

- Temporary lawyer
- Contract lawyer
- Freelance lawyer

Contract often implies attachment to a single firm while freelance means doing work for many different firms.



Who is the “hiring” lawyer?

The term hiring lawyer may also be synonymous with:

- Retaining lawyer
- Engaging lawyer
- Outsourcing lawyer

Many ethics opinions use them interchangeably

Types of freelance legal services

One lawyer hires a non-employee lawyer to provide legal services to the firm for a client

Usually done with independent contractor agreements identifying the services

Defined fees or flat rates and limits of services

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Title search: Ethics of Freelance Legal Services: Hiring and Being Hired as a Contract Attorney

Also available as part of the eCourse

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