

PRESENTED AT

15th Annual Gas and Power Institute

September 8-9, 2016
Houston, Texas

The Ties That Bind Presidents and Lawyers Lawyer Ethics Version

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by Talmage Boston

Good Afternoon!

Since we're getting close to Election Day AND since you need CLE ethics credit,
we're going to have some fun today.

We're going to talk about presidential history AND legal professionalism.

Your kneejerk reaction may be to think that those 2 subjects are apples and oranges –
with no connection; though as you'll soon learn – they're apples and apples –
as the leadership traits that make for a great president
align in perfect synchronicity with the traits
that make for a consummate professional lawyer.

As a historian whose now written a fully loaded book on presidential history **[CLICK]**
made up of the edited transcripts of my interviews with experts on our presidents
AND a full-time practicing lawyer for almost 40 years,
I encourage you to go with the flow and enjoy the parallels between these two fields
over the next few minutes.

Years ago, I had an epiphany about history –

I realized that most of us love it for two reasons:

First, it shows us how much things change;

Second, it shows us how much things stay the same.

One of the main ways history shows us how much things stay the same

is that the traits that make a great presidential leader are the same in 2016
as they were in 1789 when George Washington got sworn in.

For my new book, *Cross-Examining History*, [\[CLICK\]](#)

after completing my 31 interviews with top presidential experts,

I synthesized what I learned

into what I call “the Ten Commandments of Presidential Leadership -- [\[CLICK\]](#)

I recognize that this audience is filled with current and future lawyer leaders - -

lawyers who are leaders at their firms,

in bar activities, and in their communities.

These Commandments are worthy of lawyer leaders' attention –

since they come from people

who faced their eras' greatest challenges –

and met them in ways that set the standard not just for presidential leadership –

but for all in leadership positions.

And when you hear the stories of the men behind these commandments –

and then hear them matched up with our Disciplinary Rules

and the Texas Lawyers Creed – it should help you understand

why so many of our commanders-in-chief started their careers as lawyers –

aspiring to practice law with the same leadership traits

that served them well when they became president.

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](http://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: The Ties That Bind Presidents and Lawyers: Lawyer Ethics Version

Also available as part of the eCourse

[The Ten Commandments of Ethical Leadership for Lawyers—Based on Lessons Learned From Some of Our Top Presidents of the United States](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
15th Annual Gas and Power Institute session

"The Ten Commandments of Ethical Leadership for Lawyers—Based on Lessons Learned From Some of Our Top Presidents of the United States"