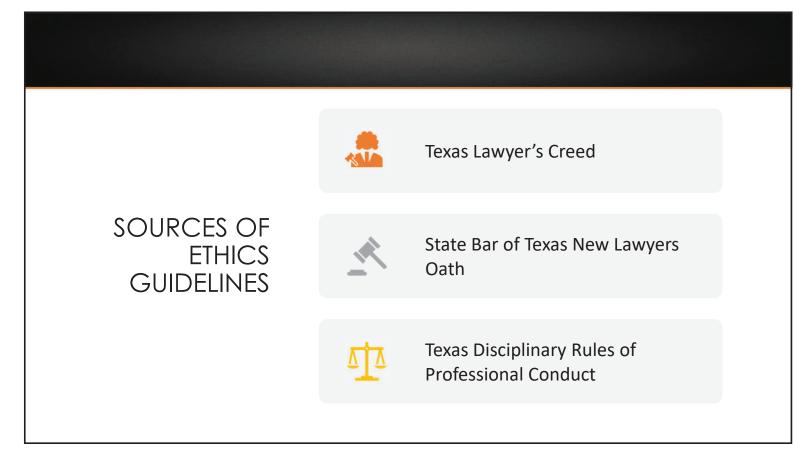
What's Next: Best Practices, Ethical Obligations, and Pitfalls to Avoid when Served with a Lawsuit.

# SO YOU'VE BEEN SUED

Presented by: Juan J. Cruz jcruz@jca-law.com Laredo, Texas | San Antonio, Texas





## State Bar of Texas New Lawyers Oath



 "I,\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitutions of the United States, and of this State; that I will honestly demean myself in the practice of law; that I will discharge my duties to my clients to the best of my ability; and, that I will conduct myself with integrity and civility in dealing and communicating with the court and all parties. So help me God."

### Texas Lawyer's Creed – A Mandate For Professionalism

- Intended to be a "definitive statement of professionalism for Texas Lawyers."
- The Creed is not a legally binding document and has no enforcement mechanism.
- The Creed is aspirational and serves as a reminder and declaration of the ethical and professional standards of practice Texas lawyers should aspire to.
- The Texas Lawyer's Creed reminds attorneys that Lawyers have ethical and professional duties to four different systems:
  - I. The Legal System
  - II. To the Client
  - III. To Other Lawyers, and
  - IV. To the Judge

#### Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct



- Mandatory minimum standards for ethical conduct expected by Texas lawyers
- Violations are handled in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure
- Rules are frequently cited in malpractice cases when evaluating whether the appropriate standards for professional conduct have been observed.

### "Zealous Advocacy"



Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the <u>UT Law CLE eLibrary (utcle.org/elibrary)</u>

#### Title search: So You've Been Sued?: What's Next

Also available as part of the eCourse <u>The Disciplinary Process; Plus Best Practices When Served with a Lawsuit</u>

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual School Law Conference session "So You've Been Sued?: What's Next"