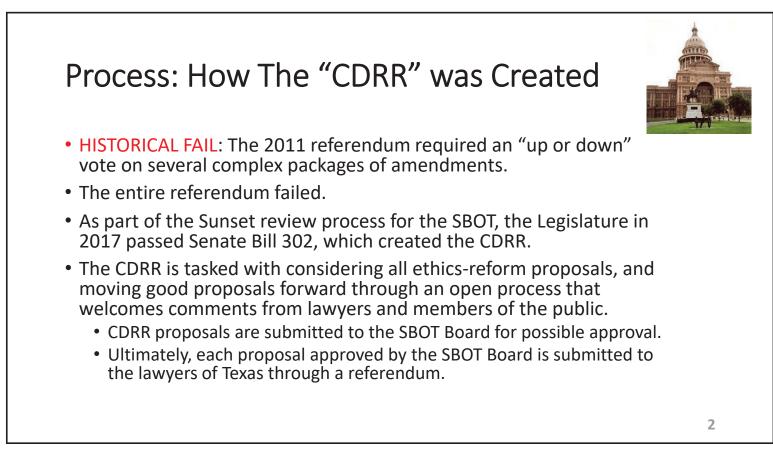
New Tools for the Practice of Law

Understanding the Changes to the Texas Disciplinary Rules Rules Vote Referendum 2021: Passed!

A look at the Process How Will Law Practice Change in Texas? *Presenter:* Claude E. Ducloux, Austin Member, Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda UTCLE- Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar Live Webcast – Sept 9-10, 2021



1



Objectivity and Perspectives

- Makeup of the Committee: lawyers and non-lawyers.
- Multiple perspectives and opinions on proposed changes.
- Each proposed rule is reviewed from the perspective of a busy practicing attorney:
 - Do I understand the rule?
 - Does this change make sense for the profession and the public?
 - Will the proposed rule unnecessarily complicate law practice?
 - And ... finally ... can we teach others what the rule means and how it applies?

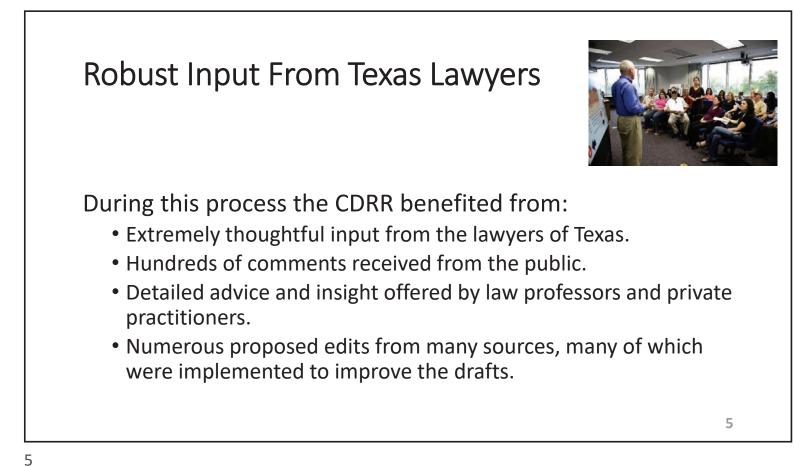
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Purpose of the Changes

- Modernize the ethics rules for the Digital Age.
- Review ethics-reform proposals from all sources:
 - Lawyers, the public, sections of the bar, the courts, and the SBOT.
- Improve, clarify, and simplify the ethics rules applicable to all Texas lawyers.
- Protect the interests of the public.
- Replace or eliminate provisions that are not working.
- Address the needs and issues faced by aging lawyers and clients.



3



Eight Ballot Items Lawyers Voted On

- A: Scope and Objectives of Representation
 - Clients with Diminished Capacity.
- B: Confidentiality of Information
 - Exception to Permit Disclosure to Secure Legal Ethics Advice.
- C: Confidentiality of Information
 - Exception to Permit Disclosure to Prevent Client Death by Suicide.
- D: Conflict of Interest
 - Exceptions for Nonprofit and Limited Pro Bono Legal Services.



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Title search: The New Texas Disciplinary Rules: New Tools for the Practice of Law

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