

# ETHICS AND THE AGENCY LAWYER: Conflicts, Fiduciary Duty, and Confidential Information

Situations which Require Ethical Boundaries

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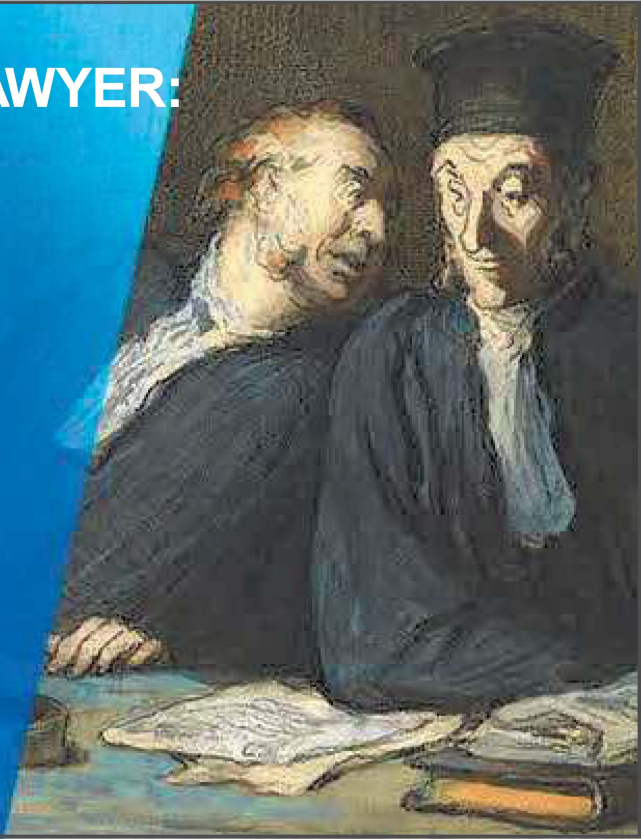
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1

## 2 What we will cover

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- Fiduciary Duty – Texas Law
- Conflicts of Interest
- What is Confidential Information
- Hearing Ethics – Advocacy v. Integrity
- Avoiding Common Ethical Traps



2

## Part 2: Fiduciary Duty

### Definitions and Elements

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What is a fiduciary?

**A fiduciary can be:**

- A person
- A trust
- A capacity between entities
- A duty
- A relationship
- A doctrine

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## Common elements and characteristics

High degree of fidelity

Scrupulous candor

Scrupulous good faith

Putting the benefit of  
another person above  
the actor's own benefit

## Why is this important?

- **Fiduciary duty** touches every segment of a lawyer's practice and interactions with clients, the courts, and the administration of justice.
- The **penalties** for breach of duty can be devastating to a lawyer and the lawyer's firm.
- Understanding and appreciating these duties and liabilities will **improve** your client relationships and your professional reputation.
- Suing lawyers is a growth industry!

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