

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

# SO YOU'VE BEEN SUED

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## SOURCES OF ETHICS GUIDELINES



Texas Lawyer's Creed



State Bar of Texas New Lawyers  
Oath



Texas Disciplinary Rules of  
Professional Conduct

# 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”



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"So You've Been Sued?: What's Next"