

## Where and How to Research Attorney Legal Ethics

Note: you can use publicly-available resources, Lexis Advance, Westlaw. See below.

### [Guides to researching New York Legal Ethics](#)

Researching legal ethics is complex. It requires finding court cases and bar association opinions interpreting the amended 2009 Rules of Professional Conduct. In addition to the Rules of Professional Conduct, state and federal court rules and statutes govern attorney practice.

Influential opinions are issued by American Bar Association, as well as the New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar, the New York County Association, the Erie County Bar and the Nassau County Bar. Since so many entities interpret legal ethics, research requires a treatise. *Simon's New York Rules of Professional Conduct Annotated* is only available in print, but it is essential for comprehensive research. A noted authority on legal ethics, Professor Simon provides commentary identifying pertinent ethic opinions and court cases. Subject treatises will include brief sections on ethical issues unique to their areas, but these volumes are not substitutes for *Simon's*.

## Public Resources

### [ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct](#)

#### [Text of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct](#)

New York State Unified Court System, Part 1200 Rules of Professional Conduct. May 1, 2013

<http://www.nycourts.gov/rules/jointappellate/NY-Rules-Prof-Conduct-1200.pdf>

New York Rules of Professional Conduct Effective April 1, 2009 as amended through Nov 2, 2013

<http://www.nysba.org/workarea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=49700>

New York State Bar [Resources on Professional Standards for Attorneys](#)

### [Bar Association Opinions](#)

Erie County Bar Association [Professional Ethics Opinions & Related Materials](#)

[Nassau County Bar Association](#) Ethics opinions are posted under the "For the Legal Profession" link

New York City Bar [Ethics](#)

New York County Bar Association [Ethics and Opinions](#)

New York State Bar Association Ethics Opinions <http://www.nysba.org/ethics/>

## Lexis Advance

To find all legal ethics resources (some not available on the public access subscription), use the Explore Content pod. Click on Legal Ethics under Practice Area or Industry

The screenshot shows the Lexis Advance website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Lexis Advance® Research', a search bar containing 'Rectangular Snip', and user options like 'Client: -None-', 'History', 'Help', and 'Sign Out'. Below this is the main header 'Lexis Advance®' with links for 'Advanced Search', 'Tips', and 'Get a Doc Assistance'. A search bar is present with the placeholder text 'Enter terms, sources, a citation, or shep: to Shepardize®' and a search button. The main content area is titled 'Explore Content' and features a grid of legal categories. The 'Practice Area or Industry' column is highlighted in red, and 'Legal Ethics' is specifically highlighted with a red box. Below the grid are sections for 'History' and 'Favorites'.

Content Type	Federal	State	Practice Area or Industry	International	
Administrative Law			Construction	Governments	Patent Law
Admiralty & Maritime Law			Contracts Law	Healthcare Law	Pensions & Benefits Law
Antitrust & Trade Law			Copyright Law	Immigration	Public Contracts
Banking Law			Corporate Counsel	Insurance Law	Public Health & Welfare Law
Bankruptcy Law			Criminal Law & Procedure	International Law	Real Property Law
Business & Corporate Law			Education Law	International Trade Law	Securities Law
Civil Procedure			Energy & Utilities Law	Labor & Employment Law	Tax Law
Civil Rights Law			Entertainment & Sports	Legal Ethics	Torts
Commercial Law (UCC)			Environmental Law	Life Sciences/Pharmaceutical	Trade Secrets Law
Communications Law			Estate, Gift & Trust Law	Manufacturing	Trademark Law
Computer & Internet Law			Evidence	Mergers & Acquisitions	Transportation Law
Constitutional Law			Family Law	Military & Veterans Law	Workers' Compensation & SSDI

[Text of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct](#)

[22 NYCRR Pt 1200 Rules of Professional Conduct unannotated](#)

NY Consolidated Law Service Court Rules > Selected Chapters from NYCRR Relating to Judges and Attorneys > [Rules of Professional Conduct](#) annotated

[Legal Ethics Opinions](#)

[New York City Bar Association Committee on Professional & Judicial Ethics Decisions](#)

[NY State Bar Association Committee on Prof Ethics/State Ethics Decisions](#)

[Treatises and Practice Guides](#)

New York Criminal Practice, [Ch 86 Professional Responsibility](#)

New York Elder Law, [Ch 1 Attorney-Client Concerns](#)

New York Jurisprudence 2d, [Attorneys at Law](#)

Warren's Weed New York Real Property, [Ch 10 Attorneys at Law](#)

## Westlaw

### Text of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct

McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York > Judiciary > Appendix. Annotated

McKinney's New York Rules of Court > Supreme Court, Appellate Division, All Departments > Part 1200 Rules of Professional Conduct. Unannotated.

### Legal Ethics Opinions

New York > Administrative Decisions & Guidance > Legal Ethics Opinions. Combined file contains New York State Bar Association Committee on Professional Ethics, New York County Lawyers' Association Committee on Professional Ethics, New York City Bar, New York Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics.

### Treatises and Practice Guides

Carmody-Wait 2d New York Practice with Forms, Ch 3 Officers of Court, Pt 4 Attorneys

Handling a Criminal Case in New York

Harris 6<sup>th</sup> NY Estates: Estate Planning & Taxation

NY Elder Law and Special Needs Practice

New York Jurisprudence 2d, Attorneys at Law

NY Pattern Jury Instructions – See index entries under ethics, legal malpractice, conflict of interest.

NY Practice Series, Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts discusses application of the Rules of Professional Conduct in litigation

Restatement [Third] of the Law Governing Lawyers