

QUICK GUIDE TO LEGAL ETHICS RESEARCH

I. **Getting Started** – see Research Guide at http://libguides.law.hofstra.edu/legaethics_professional

A. Treatises

- **Simon's New York rules of professional conduct annotated / Roy Simon**
Call Number: KFN5076.5 .S46 Law Reserve
- **The Law of Lawyering/ by Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr. and W. William Hodes:**
Call Number: KF306 .H33 Law Reserve
- **Understanding Lawyer's Ethics/ by Monroe Freedman and Abbe Smith:**
Call Number: KF306 .F76 Law Reserve
- **A Concise Restatement of the Law Governing Lawyers / compiled by Vincent R. Johnson and Susan Saab Fortney** Call Number: KF300 .C66 2007 Law Reserve
- **Legal malpractice law : problems and prevention / by Susan Saab Fortney, Vincent R. Johnson** Call Number: KF313 .F67 2008 Law Reserve
- **Legal Malpractice / Ronald E. Mallen, Jeffrey M. Smith (also on Westlaw)** Call Number: KF313 .M29 Law Reserve

B. **NY. Jurisprudence** - Attorneys at Law topic or use index

II. **Ethics Codes**

- **State codes/rules of ethics for attorneys** – look in state's annotated code (in print or online). You will find references to some decisions and possibly ethics opinions interpreting the ethics rules. You may find your state's ethics code in the rules volumes or the main volumes, depending upon the state. See research guide for other sources.
 1. See ABA web site, links of interest - http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/resources/links_of_interest.html
 2. WestlawNext - in search box, type in "New York Rules of Professional Conduct" (substitute other states, as appropriate)

III. **Ethics Opinions** – ABA and state

- A. searchable on Lexis and Westlaw (look in state administrative decisions)
- B. Specific opinion may be on free web site – look at State Bar Association web site

IV. **A. Statutes / B. Cases / C. Regulations**

A. **Statutes** - Look in annotated code - for ethics codes, for other sections (such as misconduct) which may apply

B. **Cases** - Try Topic– Attorney and Client (Topic 45) – and Key Number (see table of contents for specific key numbers or use Topic and Key Number from known case)

C. **Regulations** - Look in state regulations (NYCRR for NY) for rules covering attorneys (such as requirement of a letter of engagement and court rules of practice)

V. **Other Ethics resources** – on Law Library’s web site see

- Law Library’s Research Guides > Legal Ethics
- Online Resources > Ethics

A. BNA Manual on Professional Conduct (MOPC)- <http://0-lawyersmanual.bna.com.libweb.hofstra.edu/mopw2/>

B. ABA Model Rules – see ABA web site at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct.html

a. **Annotated Model Rules of Professional Conduct:**

Call Number: KF305.A6 Law Reserve

b. Legislative History

- **A Legislative History: The Development of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, 1982-2005**

Call Number: KF306 .L45 2006 Law Reserve

VI. **Law Review articles** – if keyword searching on Lexis or Westlaw is not working, try

1. Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP) or Legal Trac – Library Online Resources > Article Finding
2. Look for useful subjects
 - a. Possible ILP subjects – Lawyers; Ethics; Rules; Confidential communications – Lawyers
 - b. Possible Legal Trac subjects – Legal ethics (with subdivisions)
3. Look for Topic area on Lexis and Westlaw
 - a. Westlaw Classic – Database Directory > Topical Materials by Area of Practice > Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility
 - b. Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Ethics