I. Research Guides - see **Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility for Lawyers** handout - Law Library > Research Guides > Topical > Legal Ethics - [http://libguides.law.hofstra.edu/legalethics_professional](http://libguides.law.hofstra.edu/legalethics_professional)

II. Specialized Ethics / Professionalism resources need to understand role in legal malpractice - see **Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility for Lawyers** handout

A. Ethics Codes - ABA Model Rules, State Codes/Rules - NY - in Appendix to Judiciary Code

B. Disciplinary actions - see state bar web sites

C. Ethics opinions - advisory, informative - see Lexis or Westlaw, bar association web sites

III. Where to start - Secondary Sources

A. Basic Introduction - NOT for citing
   1. Legal Encyclopedias / ALR - look for State specific Encyclopedia where relevant - see NY Jur>Malpractice>IV. Malpractice by Attorneys

B. Current awareness / scope of issue - also check these sources at end of process
   1. Web sites / blogs
      - Legal Information Institute Ethics Library - [http://www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/](http://www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/)

   Note: If no search box is available, use Google Advanced Search
   - e.g. site:www.legalethicsforum.com facebook

   - malpractice facebook

C. Treatises - go to catalog, start with casebook
   - *Legal malpractice law : problems and prevention* / by Susan Saab Fortney, Vincent R. Johnson
   - *Legal Malpractice* / Ronald E. Mallen, Jeffrey M. Smith (also on Westlaw)
   - *Attorney Malpractice : Law and Procedure* / David J. Meiselman
   - *The Law of Lawyering* / Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., W. William Hodes, see ch. 4
   - *Restatement of the Law Governing Lawyers* (also on Lexis and Westlaw)

   Lexicat / WorldCat, search subject - Lawyers Malpractice - United States

D. Articles
1. Westlaw Next - *(lawyer attorney)* /s malpractice /s research - narrow to Secondary Sources
   - look at Citing references, look at footnotes
   - locate *facebook* or “*social media*”

2. Index - Online Resources>Article Finding>Index to Legal Periodicals
   - *malpractice ; research*
   - Subject: *lawyers-malpractice ; research*
   - *lawyers malpractice ; facebook*

IV. Primary Sources
A. Statutes
   - use Index, each state will be different and use different terminology
   - Annotated code - note cross ref, regulations, key number, annotations
   - 50 state surveys - great, if cover your topic, but don’t count on it
   - HeinOnline - *(Subject Compilations of State Laws)* - browse and search
     subjects - *attorneys in Subj ; malpractice* in Title (not Journal Title)
   - Lexis - 50 State Multi-Jurisdictional Surveys - Browse TOC
   - WestlawNext - type in 50 state surveys

B. Administrative Code / Court Rules
   - Regulations - authority delegated by legislature to executive agencies - in
     Administrative Codes online - e.g. Lexis, Westlaw
   - administrative decisions - ethics opinions
   - State Rules of Professional Conduct may be in statutes, regulations or Court Rules
     (sometimes found in administrative codes (see p. 5 of *Legal Ethics and Professional
     Responsibility for Lawyers* handout))

C. Cases
   - References from Secondary Sources and annotated code - look in State annotated
     code for cases decided re: Rules of Prof. Conduct
   - KeyCite / Shepardize a known case
   - Using digest on Westlaw
     - get topic and key number from known case
     - Note Topic number - and Key Number in headnotes on Westlaw
   - Use TOC of Key Numbers
   - search using topic, key number and terms in WestlawNext Advanced search for cases
     - 45k112.50 or 45k105.5 and internet or facebook or “social media” or “social
       network!”

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