

## Author's Introduction

The lawyer ethics chapters of this treatise are designed to provide both an overview of professional responsibility in Iowa and a thorough analysis and practical explanation of each of the provisions in the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct and other pertinent Iowa court rules. This survey of legal ethics in Iowa is conducted with attention to foundational principles of legal ethics, moral principles and professional aspirations, the text and drafting history of the formal rules, Iowa Supreme Court decisions, and national trends and developments.

What's New in the 2025 Edition:

Among the developments addressed in this new 2025 edition are:

- New Iowa Supreme Court decision on misappropriation of funds from client
- New commentary on generative artificial intelligence tools including discussion of new American Bar Association ethics opinion
- New Iowa Supreme Court decision on mental health evaluation as condition to reinstatement from suspension
- New Iowa Supreme Court decision explaining progressive disciplinary sanctions
- New Iowa Supreme Court decision on failure to accept responsibility as an aggravating factor for discipline
- New American Bar Association ethics opinion on preventing the misuse of confidential government information
- New American Bar Association ethics opinion on avoiding the imputation of a conflict of interest in consultation with a prospective client
- New commentary on communications with prospective clients
- Additional commentary on candidly counseling clients
- New American Bar Association ethics opinion on a lawyer's duties in advising an organization that may create legal risks for organization's constituents
- New Iowa Supreme Court decision on duty to conduct a reasonable inquiry prior to filing a court document and how that duty is determined at the time of the filing
- New Iowa Supreme Court decision limiting deposition of an opposing attorney in a civil matter

- New Iowa Supreme Court decision on the ethical rule prohibiting sexual harrasment
- New American Bar Association ethics opinion on confidentiality duties of lawyers posting to listservs
- New Iowa Supreme Court decision on emotional distress damages in a legal malpractice suit

From the very first edition of this Iowa treatise in 2007, the commentary on each rule in the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct has begun with a comparison of the current Iowa rule with both the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and with the former Iowa Code of Professional Responsibility. Now that the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct have been in effect for more than a decade, and as the former Code falls ever further into the past (have been superseded by the American Bar Association for some 35 years), the comparison of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct with the former Code is progressively less useful. Moreover, as the evolution and updating of both the Model Rules and the Iowa Rules has continued over the past decade, we have not regularly re-evaluated how these recent changes comport with or depart from the former Code. In sum, the comparison with the former Code is becoming more dated and less accurate. Beginning with the 2018 edition, the former Code comparison was removed. By contrast, the comparison of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct is being retained and will continue to be updated. In this way, Iowa lawyers and researchers looking at case-law and opinions in other jurisdictions and commentary on the Model Rules should be aware of the ways in which the Iowa version of the rules differs from the American Bar Association's model rules.

GREGORY SISK

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