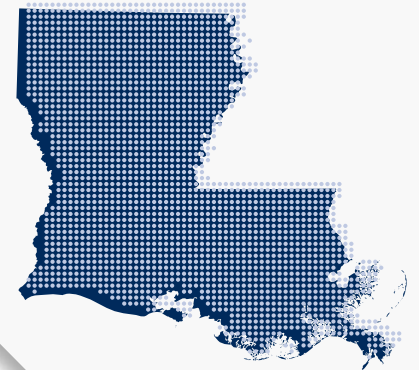


# New to the Bar?

## LSBA's Essential Guide to Ethics and Professional Discipline



Many attorneys inevitably reach a point when they must answer the ethical question, “Should I do that?” Granted, many of the ethical misadventures and professionalism mistakes already receive sufficient publicity through the Louisiana Attorney

Disciplinary Board’s monthly newsletter.

While answers to some ethical dilemmas are straightforward and common, others can be more novel. For instance, before the Louisiana Supreme Court issued its Jan. 22, 2024, letter discussing the use of artificial intelligence technology in the legal profession, practitioners took opposing positions on whether the use of something like ChatGPT could be ethical in legal practice. It depends, right?

Many ethical and professional problems faced by young attorneys, however, don't stem from revolutionary technology but rather from common interactions with clients and other attorneys. This is where two Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) resources can help.

### Ethics Advisory Service

Established to guide attorneys in their everyday practices, the Ethics Advisory Service Committee, comprised of attorneys from across the state, along with Ethics Counsel, provides confidential, non-binding ethics opinions to Louisiana licensed attorneys. To use this service, send your question(s) to the attention of Ethics Counsel by fax or email. (Contact information is located on the web page below.) While the turnaround time ranges from five to 10 working days, this extra layer of assurance can be beneficial for young attorneys. Published opinions on common issues like sharing office spaces with non-lawyers, accepting credit cards for payment of services and client gifts are all found on the web page at: [www.lsba.org/Members/EthicsAdvisary.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Members/EthicsAdvisary.aspx).

“ [A]ttorneys practicing in Louisiana have always been ultimately responsible for their work-product and the pleadings they file in court, maintaining competence in technology, and protecting confidential client information and have a duty to avoid making misrepresentations of fact or law . . . The Louisiana Supreme Court Justices and staff will continue to monitor the development of this technology and its impact on the legal profession to determine what future action or rule changes may be necessary or appropriate. ”

(See page 375 of this issue.)

### A Guide to Attorney Disciplinary Procedures in Louisiana

Another sensitive topic for young attorneys is professional discipline. Because attorneys are governed by high standards of ethics and professional competence, a statewide agency — the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LABD) —

was created and tasked with investigating allegations of lawyer misconduct and making recommendations to the Court when discipline is warranted. The LSBA outlines this grievance process and offers other programs to help attorneys and their clients. Read more about the LSBA Client Assistance Fund and the LSBA Lawyer Fee Dispute Resolution Program at: [www.lsba.org/Public/AttorneyDisciplinaryProcedures.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Public/AttorneyDisciplinaryProcedures.aspx).

# Ethics Advisory Service

[www.lsba.org/goto/ethicsadvisory](http://www.lsba.org/goto/ethicsadvisory)

For assistance with dilemmas and decisions involving legal ethics, take full advantage of the LSBA's Ethics Advisory Service, offering - at no charge - confidential, informal, non-binding advice and opinions regarding a member's own prospective conduct.

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