# Current Issues Impacting State and Federal Juries

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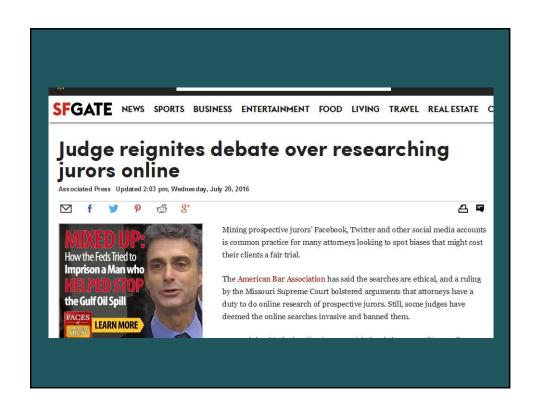
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University of Texas CLE Page Keeton Civil Litigation Conference October 27, 2016

## Internet Research of Jurors by Attorneys







#### The Rules

- ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct 3.5(b)
  - Prohibits ex parte communication with jurors
- ABA Formal Opinion 466 (April 24, 2014)
  - Permits internet research that does not involve communication
  - The fact that a juror may become aware of the research does not constitute communication in violation of Rule 3.5(b)
  - Judge may ban searches
- State Rules Vary on the Issue
  - New York: permits internet research, but prohibits notifications to juror
  - Oregon: allows lawyers to ask jurors for permission to access social media profiles as long as lawyer honestly represents his role

### Tex. Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct 3.06

- (a) A lawyer shall not:
  - (1) conduct or cause another, by financial support or otherwise, to conduct a vexatious or harassing investigation of a venireman or juror; or
  - (2) seek to influence a venireman or juror concerning the merits of a pending matter by means prohibited by law or applicable rules of practice or procedure.





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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  $40^{\text{th}}$  Annual Page Keeton Civil Litigation Conference session "Current Issues Facing Juries in State and Federal Courts"