

# UT LAW CLE FIRST FRIDAY ETHICS

## HOW TO AVOID MALPRACTICE IN A POST-PANDEMIC LEGAL WORLD

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## Impact of the Pandemic

- Remote Work
- Communication with other lawyers and staff
- Inattention to detail—distractions
- Safeguarding confidential information
- Technology challenges
- Mental health issues

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## ABA Formal Opinion 498

- Virtual Practice = Beyond the traditional brick & mortar law firm
- Competence
- Diligence
- Communications (especially when using technology)
- Confidentiality
- Supervision

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## ABA Formal Opinion 498

- In general, same ethical rules apply to both traditional and virtual practice
- If you are prohibited from doing it in person, you are still prohibited if virtual
- Are your technology and work environment consistent with your ethical obligations?
- In some instances, ethical obligations may be more, not less

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## Lawyer Wellness Statistics\*

- 32% of lawyers 30 years old or younger have a drinking problem
- 28% of lawyers struggle with some level of depression
- 19% of lawyers demonstrate symptoms of anxiety
- 11% of lawyers have had suicidal thoughts at some point in their career

\* Texas Lawyer Assistance Program (TLAP) website

## ***Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program***

24-HR hotline (call or text):  
**(800) 343-TLAP (8527)**

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## Title search: How to Avoid Malpractice in a Post-Pandemic Legal World

Also available as part of the eCourse

[First Friday Ethics \(March 2024\)](#)

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