



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

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P.O. BOX 12248      CAPITOL STATION  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

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December 22, 1989.

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The Lawyers of Texas  
----- A Shared Commitment To Professionalism

Dear Fellow Lawyer:

On November 7, 1989, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals adopted The Texas Lawyers' Creed -- A Mandate for Professionalism. We thus became the first state in the nation where the highest courts have set forth those standards to which we expect all attorneys to adhere.

There is a renewed call for professionalism echoing throughout our great state. Our conduct should be characterized at all times by honesty, candor and fairness.

Those who believe that waging Rambo-style litigation is the way to practice law do a tremendous disservice to our entire profession. Lawyers with this type of attitude instead of being part of the solution have become part of the problem. Lawyers want to restore civility to the courtroom, to the discovery process and to the entire practice of law.

The enclosed code is primarily aspirational. Compliance with the rules depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon re-enforcement by peer pressure and public opinion, and finally when necessary by enforcement by the courts through their inherent powers and rules already in existence. The code is not meant as a set of rules that lawyers can use and abuse to incite ancillary litigation or arguments over whether or not they have been observed.

If you would like additional copies of the code, you may re-order from the State Bar of Texas. They are excellent for furnishing to clients and for having in your office.

With each of us making a daily commitment to our profession, we can defeat Rambo, restore public confidence in our profession, have fun practicing law, faithfully serve our clients, and fulfill our responsibility to the legal system.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene A. Cook".  
Eugene A. Cook  
Justice

EAC:jk