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## Courts adopt standard of conduct for lawyers

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AUSTIN — The Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals have adopted a "lawyer's creed" to set a standard of conduct for Texas' 52,000 lawyers.

The Texas Supreme Court is the

first state supreme court to endorse a code of conduct for lawyers, the State Bar of Texas said Wednesday.

Supreme Court Justice Eugene Cook said the code is aimed, in part, at "Rambo-type" lawyers for whom "litigation has become synonymous with all-out war."

## Crack down on Rambo lawyers

The Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals recently approved a code of professionalism to get tough on Rambo lawyers — a new breed of win-at-all-costs litigators who are criticized for being abusive, hostile and obstructionist.

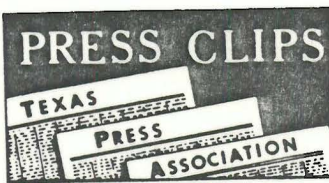
The code carries no new disciplinary sanctions, but its message is clear.

"The Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals are committed to eliminating a practice in our state by a minority of lawyers of abusive tactics," said the courts' order. "The abusive tactics range from lack of civility to outright hostility and obstructionism. Such behavior does not serve justice but tends to delay and often deny justice."

The new rules include pledges that lawyers will not harass the opposing party or take actions intended primarily to cost the other side money. It sounds at times like a primer on basic human kindness with statements such as: "My word is my bond" and "I can disagree without being disagreeable."

One tenet requires lawyers to avoid disparaging personal remarks toward others involved in legal proceedings and to "abstain from any allusion to personal peculiarities or idiosyncracies of opposing counsel."

Supreme Court Justice Eugene Cook led the drive for the code, which is the first in the nation to be sanctioned by the state's highest courts.



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Tyler, Texas  
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The State Bar said the Texas Lawyer's Creed is being published in the Texas Bar Journal.



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## Creed designed to curb lawyers' conduct

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