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6		***		
7	HEATHER PAINTER,		)	
8		Plaintiff.	) ) 2:12-cv-01215-JCM-RJJ	
9		Plaintiff,	) 2:12-ev-01215-JCM-RJJ	
10	vs.		}	
11	AARON ATWOOD, D.D.S,	et al.	ORDER	
12		Defendants.	{	
12		Defendants.	}	
13				

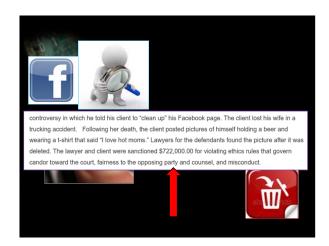
In March 2014, a Nevada federal judge held that a dental assistant's deletion of Facebook posts and texts warranted sanctions. Heather Painter sued her employer Atwood Urgent Dental Care for constructive discharge and emotional distress damages, alleging that her boss climbed on top of her with his pants undone and held her down. Dr. Atwood claimed that the sexual nature of his relationship with Painter was consensual. Following the incident, Painter deleted texts, and after retaining counsel, Painter deleted Facebook posts in which she praised her employer and her relationship with Dr. Atwood, the same man against whom she made her allegations of sexual misconduct.



The Court awarded sanctions against Painter.

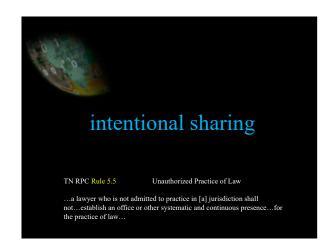
defendants. Critically for we lawyers, the Judge's Order stated: "Once plaintiff retained counsel, her counsel should have informed her of her duty to preserve evidence and, further, explained to plaintiff the full extent of that obligation."



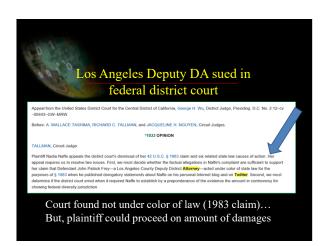












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new ABA opinion	
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION /	
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	
Formal Opinion 480 March 6, 2018	
Confidentiality Obligations for Lawyer Blogging and Other Public Commentary	
Lawyers who blog or engage in other public commentary may not reveal information relating to	
a representation, including information contained in a public record, unless authorized by a	
provision of the Model Rules. <sup>1</sup>	
Duty of Confidentiality Under Rule 1.6	
Model Rule 1.6(a) provides:	
A lawyer shall not reveal information relating to the representation	
of a client unless the client gives informed consent, the disclosure is impliedly authorized in order to carry out the representation or the	
disclosure is permitted by paragraph (b).	
THE TAXABLE PARTY.	
Formal Opinion 480 4	
not otherwise impliedly authorized to carry out the representation, then the lawyer violates Rule 1.6(a). <sup>13</sup> Rule 1.6 does not provide an exception for information that is "generally known" or	
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Formal Opinion 480 4	
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information, the lawyer <sup>15</sup> must comply with Rule 1.6(a). <sup>16</sup>	
Significantly information about a client's assessment in a section of its analysis of the	
Significantly, information about a client's representation contained in a court's order, for exple, although contained in a public document or record, is <i>not</i> exempt from the lawyer's duty	
of infidentiality under Model Rule 1.6.10 The duty of contentiality extends generally to mation related to a representation whatever its source and wh	
be aware of or have access to such knowledge. <sup>11</sup>	
A violation of Rule 1.6(a) is not avoided by dese "hypothetical" if there is a reasonable likelihood that a third g y may ascertain the identity or	
situation of the client from the facts set forth in the hypothel 1.12 Hence, if a lawyer uses a	
hypothetical when offering public commentary, the hypothetical when offering public commentary when of	

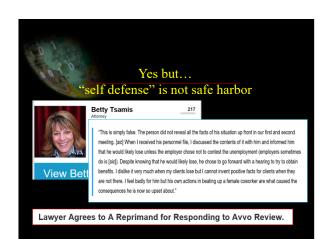
### blogging best practices

- Get written permission before discussing clients' cases (even if you anonymize)
- Use prominent disclaimers
- · Be familiar with the regulations on advertising and soliciting clients
- Be wary of unintentionally establishing client relationship
- Write factual updates instead of opinions
- Don't blog about judges or colleagues



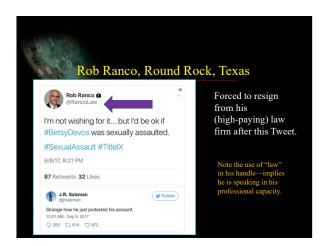






# responding to negative reviews • Ask the former client to remove the review • Exercise restraint – be generic, professional (i.e., "I am not at liberty to respond fully in this forum, but I do not believe this is a fair and accurate account..." • Have someone else proofread before hitting "post" • Never include details of the case Texas: any info provided by the client or acquired during representation – even if now publically known – may not be referenced in a response. Pennsylvania: all info related to representation of a client – even an "ungrateful" one – cannot be in the response.



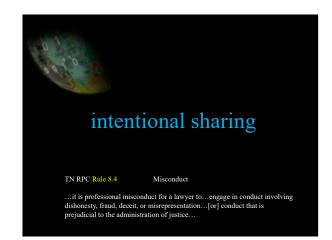


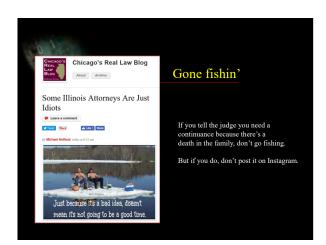












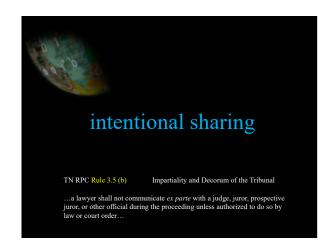
























TN Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 12-01	
Looked to other states for examples.	
Recommendations vary:	
Oklahoma: judge may friend those who do not appear regularly or are unlikely to appear before the judge.	
Florida: may not friend attorneys that may appear before the judge.	
Massachusetts: may only friend attorneys the judge would be willing to recuse self if or when attorney appears in judge's court.	
California: judge must consider the nature of the site (professional, like LinkedIn, or personal, like Facebook?) as well as how they decide which attorneys to friend and which they don't, and how that may appear.	

#### TN Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 12-01

Tennessee decided judges may use social media, but "cautiously" and with the expectation that their social media use will be scrutinized.

Judge must decide whether the benefits and utility of participating justify the risks.

Pennsylvania: Defense Attorney Sam Stretton, frequent commenter on ethics wrote in an Aug. 31, 2017, column for the Legal Intelligencer that "just as a judge recognizes they cannot go out for an afternoon drink or two in public and then return to the bench because it would be noted and potentially the subject of criticism, a judge has to recognize that at times they have to give up what other people can do because of the privilege they have in serving in their judicial office."

#### TN Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 12-01

Judges may use social media, but "cautiously" and with the expectatio social media use will be scrutinized.

Rules implicated include:

- Promoting public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary;
  Conduct that would create a perception that the judge was in violation of the code of conduct or that reflects adversely on honesty, impartiality, or fitness to serve;
  Shall not permit relationships to influence judicial conduct or judgment;
  Shall not permit others to convey the impression that any person or organization is in a position to influence the judge (friends re-posting);
  Ex parte communications.

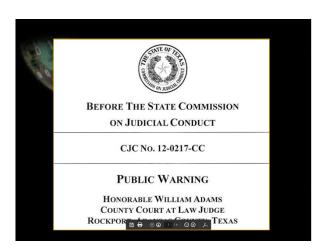
## social media Can you "friend" a judge?











	FINDINGS OF FACT	
1.	At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable William Adams was Judge of the County Court at Law in Rockport, Aransas County, Texas.	
2.	Judge Adams routinely presides over cases involving allegations of child abuse, family violence, and assault. Many of these cases are prosecuted by the Aransas County Attorney's Office, on behalf of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS), also known as Child Protective Services.	
3.	On or about November 1, 2011, Judge Adams' adult daughter, Hillary Adams, released a videotape on the Internet.	
4.	The event depicted in the videotape occurred in 2004, when Hillary was 16 years old.	
5.	The videotape captured approximately seven and a half minutes of a scene occurring in the privacy of Hillary's bedroom, wherein her father, Judge Adams, struck Hillary forcefully at least seventeen times with a belt, yelled profanities at	
	<ol> <li>As further evidence of the perception that Judge Adams could no longer be fa and impartial, on March 12, 2012, Howard G. Baldwin, Jr., Commissioner for TDFPS, directed Richard Bianchi, the Aransas County Attorney, to "take active to prevent Judge Adams [from] bearing Child Protective Services cases."</li> </ol>	

