INTRODUCTION

The Ethics Course has been developed by The Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism, which is a 501(C)(3) non-profit public foundation whose mission is to promote and preserve the highest professional standards for lawyers through education. Part of its charter requires that it provide comprehensive educational programs including the dissemination of ethical and professional values, and that it carry on such educational activities as it can to enhance and perpetuate the highest ethical, moral and professional standard of lawyers and judges. The Ethics Course fits squarely within these parameters.

The Ethics Course is designed to provide an extended course and extensive written materials to experienced Texas practitioners or those entering the Texas Bar from other venues and who want the best basic professional responsibility course that Texas CLE has to offer. It is also useful as a reminder or remedial ethics course for lawyers who might be referred by others such as Grievance Committees, Judges, and the Board of Law Examiners.

The Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism has worked closely with the State Bar and legal scholars in developing this course, and we are grateful for the efforts and cooperation of the talented and dedicated authors, course speakers, and other volunteers who give so generously of their time.

Note that in addition to this book, the materials for this course also include:

- The State Bar Act;
- The Texas Rules of Professional Conduct;
- The Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure (prior to January 1, 2004);
- The Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure (effective January 1, 2004); and
- The Texas Ethics Opinions.

All of these materials are found either on this CD ROM for the course, or on the course web pages for this program. Additional materials of interest can be found on the TCLEP website at www.txethics.org, where you can also become a member. This will not only associate you with the only bar affiliated organization devoted exclusively to ethics and professionalism in Texas, but it will also give you access to the TCLEP library of electronic ethics reference materials, including a word searchable electronic full-text database of the Texas Ethics Opinions interpreting the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct governing attorneys.

For more information about the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism and its mission, programs, books, and membership, contact William Chriss, Executive Director and Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, at 1-512-427-1477 or visit the TCLEP web site at www.txethics.org.

William J. Chriss

Executive Director and Dean
Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism
2008