Preface

The 2019 edition of the American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility Compendium of Professional Responsibility Rules and Standards gathers together for immediate reference the essential legal ethics materials needed by lawyers and judges in their daily practice, law students in their exploration of the standards of their new profession, and legal scholars in their analysis of the changing currents that influence professional regulation.

The first section of the Compendium presents models for ethical and professional conduct and standards for enforcing that conduct that have been developed by the American Bar Association. These models have been used as the foundation for most state regulations and as interpretive guidance for the courts in their resolution of professional responsibility issues. Despite the local variations in the way they have been adopted (occasionally significant), they serve to familiarize the reader with the philosophy of lawyer regulation and can be used to initiate review of substantive issues unfamiliar to the lawyer, student, or scholar.

In addition, the Compendium contains a selection of federal Rules and Standards that are commonly needed in the general practice of law, and in practice before the SEC and IRS, and that impact upon a number of ethical rules of conduct, such as the rules regarding competence and meritorious claims and contentions.

Information on the composition, jurisdiction, and procedures of the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility is included to explain how ABA ethics rules are formulated and interpreted. In addition, several of the Committee’s Formal Ethics Opinions that address important areas of lawyer conduct have been included.

The Center thanks the West Group for its generous gift of the West Professional Responsibility Law Library, the resource for much of the work performed by the Center.

Other Center for Professional Responsibility books of interest to Compendium users may include:

- Annotated Model Rules of Professional Conduct (Ninth Edition)
- Annotated Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (Second Edition)
- ABA/BNA Lawyers’ Manual on Professional Conduct (available through Bloomberg BNA)
• Legal Ethics: The Lawyer’s Deskbook on Professional Responsibility
• The Paralegal’s Guide to Professional Responsibility (Fifth Edition)
• A Legislative History of the Model Rules: The Development of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, 1982-2013
• Formal Ethics Opinions, 1999-2013

For more information, visit the Center’s Web site at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility.html