

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 12 - 9020

ORDER REGARDING
TEXAS CENTER FOR LEGAL ETHICS
AND THE
*JUSTICE JAMES A. BAKER GUIDE TO THE BASICS
OF LAW PRACTICE COURSE*

ORDERED that:

Over fifteen years ago, this Court ordered that “all lawyers licensed in the State of Texas on or after July 1, 1996, are required to take the course entitled *A Guide to the Basics of Law Practice*, sponsored by The Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism.” Misc. Docket No. 96-9078 (Mar. 1, 1996), *as amended by* Misc. Docket No. 96-9226 (Oct. 15, 1996). To recognize and honor the contributions of Justice James A. Baker, the Court later renamed the course the *Justice James A. Baker Guide to the Basics of Law Practice*. Misc. Docket No. 09-9068 (Apr. 27, 2009).

The Texas Center for Legal Ethics is a non-profit public organization, founded by three former Chief Justices of this Court, whose mission is to improve the ethics and professionalism of the state’s lawyers and promote the values contained in the Texas Lawyers’ Creed. For this reason, the Court noted in 1996 that the Texas Center for Legal Ethics is “committed and suited to be the course sponsor.” Misc. Docket No. 96-9078.

Today the Court reiterates the requirement that all newly-licensed lawyers complete the *Justice James A. Baker Guide to the Basics of Law Practice* course and reaffirms its designation of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics as the sole course provider.

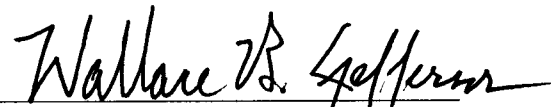
In doing so, the Court hereby amends the fourth paragraph of its Order Misc. Docket No. 96-9078, dated March 1, 1996, as follows:

Whereas, all new Texas lawyers should be required to complete the course. The course is currently offered at each of the state’s law schools to third-year students, and qualifies for four hours of MCLE ethics credit. The Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism, as course sponsor and provider, is committed and suited to be the course sponsor. ~~In the event other Continuing Legal Education providers seek and obtain approval from the Texas Supreme Court to provide a comparable program of study to that currently offered by the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism, this order may be amended to authorize additional providers.~~

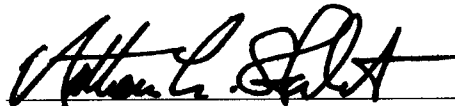
The Court also amends the third sentence of its Order Misc. Docket No. 06-9075, dated June 6, 2006, as follows:

The Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism (“TCLEP”) was designated as the original course sponsor and provider and remains the sole provider designated to date, ~~although other Continuing Legal Education providers may also seek approval from the Court to provide a comparable program of study.~~

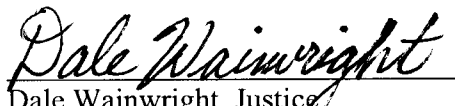
SIGNED this 24th day of January, 2012.



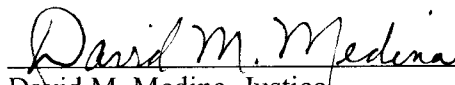
Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice



Nathan L. Hecht, Justice



Dale Wainwright, Justice



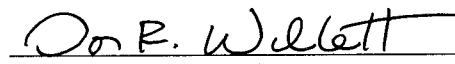
David M. Medina, Justice



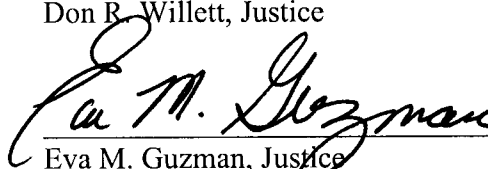
Paul W. Green, Justice



Phil Johnson, Justice



Don R. Willett, Justice



Eva M. Guzman, Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice