# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology and Justice for All CLE



Presented by the Computer and Technology Section of the State Bar of Texas February 11, 2022

# Social Media Marketing

Attorney Advertising: Ethics & Practical Considerations



Al Harrison Houston Harrison Law Office, PC Zach Herbert Richardson Herbert Law Group

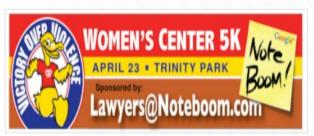
# Scope of Social Media Marketing

#### Focus: Public Perception of Legal Services Provided

- Fair & Accurate
- NOT False & Misleading
- NOT Creating Unjustified Expectations







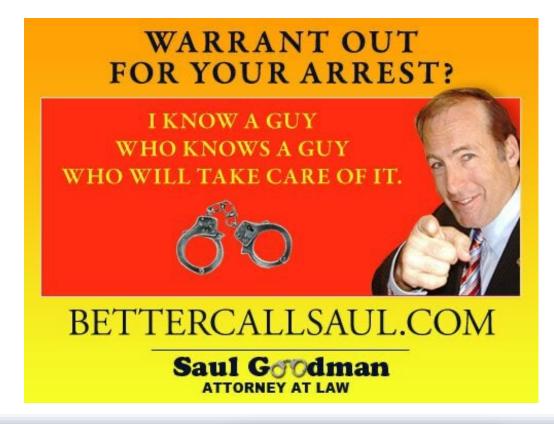




# Scope of Social Media Marketing

#### Focus: Legal Services Information Disseminated to the Public

- Firm Brochure; Print Advertisements
- Billboards
- Television; Youtube
- Radio; Podcast
- Solicitations
  - Websites
  - Electronic Communications
  - U.S. Postal Service Letters

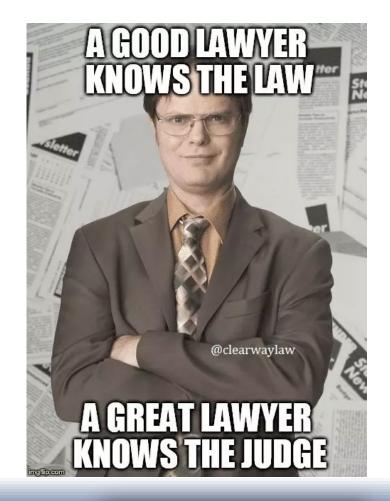




# Amended Advertising & Solicitation Rules Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Part VII

#### Ad Rules/Protocol Renaissance

- Effective July 1, 2021/Jan. 31, 2022
- Attorney-Centric (aka User-Friendly)
- Compliance Expedited via Ad Review Portal
- e-Filing via Portal from My Bar Webpage





#### Ad Rule 7.01: Communication of Lawyer's Services

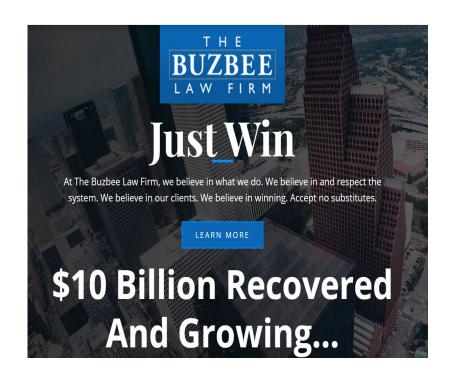
- Distinguishes "Advertisements" & "Solicitations"
- Prohibits False & Misleading
- Restrictions on Actor Portrayals
- Standards for Justified Expectations





#### Ad Rule 7.01: Communication of Lawyer's Services (continued)

- Standards for Justified Expectations
- Trade Names Permitted
- Reasonableness Test Applied Throughout





#### Ad Rule 7.02: Advertisement Logistics

- Name Lawyer Responsible for Ad
- Primary Practice Location
- Use of Actors & Dramatizations





#### Ad Rule 7.02: Advertisement Logistics (continued)

- Use of Actors & Dramatizations
- Contingent Fee Verbiage & Parameters
- Certifications & Specialist Verbiage
  - Experience, Education, Training
  - Designations: Admiralty, Patent





#### Ad Rule 7.03: Solicitation Logistics

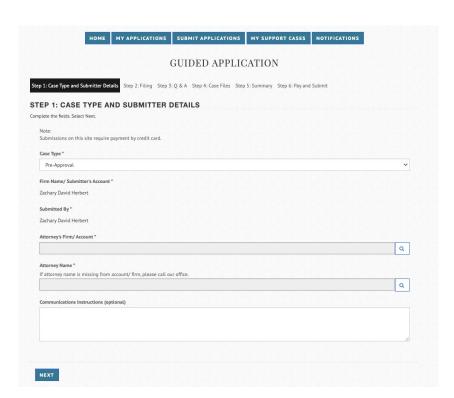
- Broad Coverage: voice & "electronic contacts"
- "ADVERTISEMENT" Required Verbiage
- Nominal Gifts for Referrals
- Payments for Lead-Generation
- Nominal Social Hospitality to Prospective Clients





#### Ad Rule 7.04: Filing Requirements

- Advertisements & Solicitation Communications
- Filing Fee (currently \$100.00)
- Submit within 10 Days of Dissemination
- Option for Pre-Approval; "Safe Harbor"
  - 30-Day Lead-Time





#### Ad Rule 7.05: Communications Exempt from Filing

 Cumulation of Panoply of Exemptions to Advertisements & Solicitation Communications





# Thank You!

#### Section Dues: \$25.00

- Quarterly journal, Circuits
- Access to CTS App with Codes, Rules, and links to cases
- December CLE, Annual Meeting Track



Al Harrison

Houston

Harrison Law Office, P.C.

Zachary Herbert Richardson Herbert Law Group