

# Attorney Liability/ Attorney Malpractice

*"The Bad News and the Good News"*

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## Overview

- Recent trends in claims against lawyers
- Who gets sued and why
- Legal standards governing lawyer's conduct
- Some practical suggestions



## Top Ten Dumb Things Lawyers Have Done To Get Sued For Malpractice

10. Rather than move for a continuance, lawyer leaves a voicemail message for opposing counsel saying he would not be at the hearing. When the lawyer (and his client) failed to show up for the hearing, the judge dismissed the case.
9. Attorney studiously researched and prepared his client's *compulsory* counterclaims...but forgot to file them with the court.
8. Lawyer filed an elaborate complaint alleging tort claims and various personal injuries and property damage... but he never served the defendant.



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7. Attorney skipped three consecutive hearings and failed to return his client's phone calls for six weeks.
6. Lawyer listed his address incorrectly on the pleading. As a result, the attorney never received or responded to the opposing side's discovery requests, which prompted the judge to sanction his client.
5. Attorney failed to file the suit before the statute of limitations.



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4. Attorney moved her office to a new location and changed her phone number...without telling her client.
3. Lawyer never advised his client that the case was dismissed; in fact, he kept sending the client legal bills for work done on a dismissed complaint!
2. Attorney actually appeared on time for a hearing...but he left before his case was called!



