

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER 1 – Elements of a Claim for Legal Malpractice.....	3
CHAPTER 2 – The Attorney-Client Relationship.....	5
A. Generally.....	5
B. Forming the Attorney-Client Relationship.....	9
C. Terminating the Attorney-Client Relationship.....	12
CHAPTER 3 – Breach of Duty.....	15
A. Generally.....	15
B. The Requirement of Expert Testimony.....	16
C. Exceptions to the Requirement of Expert Testimony.....	20
D. Qualifications of Experts.....	24
E. Relevance of the Rules of Professional Conduct to an Alleged Breach of Duty.....	27
CHAPTER 4 – Proximate Causation.....	31
A. Generally.....	31
B. Cause-in-Fact.....	32
C. Case-Within-the-Case Doctrine.....	34
D. Foreseeability.....	37
E. Expert Testimony.....	39
F. Collectability.....	42
G. Malpractice Claims Arising from Criminal Matters.....	44

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 5 – Damages	47
A. Generally	47
B. The Payment Rule	49
C. Attorneys’ Fees and Damages	49
D. Non-Pecuniary Damages	51
E. Punitive Damages	52
CHAPTER 6 – Relationship to Other Causes of Action	55
A. Breach of Fiduciary Duty	55
B. Violation of the South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act	56
CHAPTER 7 – Third-Party Claims	59
A. Attorney Immunity	59
B. Aiding and Abetting	61
C. Claims by Beneficiaries of Wills	62
D. Claims by Officers and Directors of Corporate Clients	62
CHAPTER 8 – Defenses	65
A. Generally	65
B. Statute of Limitations	65
C. The Judgmental Immunity Rule	71
D. Comparative Fault	72
E. Assumption of the Risk	73
F. Waiver and Estoppel	73
1. Waiver	73
2. Collateral Estoppel	74
3. <i>Res Judicata</i>	76
4. Judicial Estoppel	78

TABLE OF CONTENTS

G.	Ratification.....	78
H.	Failure to Mitigate.....	80
I.	Election of Remedies.....	82
CHAPTER 9 – Law Firm and Partner Vicarious Liability.....		83
CHAPTER 10 – Assignability of Legal Malpractice Claims.....		85
CHAPTER 11 – Federal Jurisdiction.....		91
A.	Diversity Jurisdiction.....	91
B.	Federal Question Jurisdiction.....	92
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES.....		95
INDEX.....		109