

Professionalism – A
Lawyer’s Creed and A
Lawyer’s Aspirational
Ideals

“Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself.” Confucius

“Regard your neighbor’s gain as your own gain, and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss.” Laozi

“What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow” –Babylonian Talmud

“Love your neighbor as you love yourself” – Jesus

“I shall represent you as I should want to be represented and be worth of your trust.” A Lawyer’s Creed

“I shall extend to you the same courtesy, respect, candor and dignity that I expect to be extended to me.” A Lawyer’s Creed

Abraham Lincoln = Honesty

Professionalism; Dos and Don'ts; Keep your word

Atticus Finch = stood up for the wrongfully accused black
man

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals: Promote equality for all
persons

Words of Justice

Wisdom

Integrity

Peace

Truth

Justice

Honor

Reason

Equity

Compassion

Honesty

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

I shall aspire to model for others the respect due to our courts. I should:

- 1) Act with Complete Honesty
- 2) Know court rules and procedures
- 3) Give appropriate deference to court rulings
- 4) Avoid undue familiarity with members of the judiciary
- 5) Avoid unfounded, unsubstantiated, or unjustified public criticism of members of the judiciary
- 6) Show respect by attire and demeanor
- 7) Assist the judiciary in determining the applicable law
- 8) Give recognition to the judiciary's obligations of informed and impartial decision -making

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

I shall aspire to promote the understanding of and appreciation for our profession by the public. I should:

- 1) Use appropriate opportunities, publicly and privately, to comment upon the roles of lawyers in society and government, as well as in our system of justice, and
- 2) Conduct myself always with an awareness that my actions and demeanor reflect upon our profession.

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

I shall aspire:

- a) To consider the effect of my conduct on the image of our system of justice, including the effect of advertising methods
- b) To help provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all
- c) To support organizations that provide pro bono representation to indigent clients
- d) To promote equality for all persons
- e) To improve our laws and legal system, by for example:
 - Serving as a public official
 - Assisting in the education of the public concerning our laws and the legal system
 - Commenting publically upon our laws
 - Using other appropriate methods of effecting positive change in our laws and the legal system

Working with Opposing Counsel and Other Lawyers

Wait 24 hours before deciding to respond to an intemperate, untrue, or exasperating communication from another lawyer

Working with Opposing Counsel and Other Lawyers

Identify the changes you made from previous drafts when exchanging document drafts

Working with Opposing Counsel and Other Lawyers

Require that persons under your supervision conduct themselves with courtesy and civility and that they adhere to these precepts when dealing with other attorneys and their staffs

Working with Opposing Counsel and Other Lawyers

Conclude a matter with a handshake or an exchange of courteous messages

Working with Opposing Counsel and Other Lawyers

Don't respond in kind when confronted with unprofessional behavior by another attorney.

Working with Opposing Counsel and Other Lawyers

Don't publicly disparage another attorney, either during or after a case concludes

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

As to clients, I shall aspire to expeditious and economical achievement of all client objectives.

Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser -- in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough. Abe Lincoln

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

Counsel clients about the value of cooperation as a means towards the productive resolution of disputes

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

Maintain the sympathetic detachment that permits objective and independent advice to clients

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

Communicate promptly and clearly with clients

A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals

Reach clear agreements with clients concerning the nature of the representation

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