

A Lawyer's Creed of Professionalism

(excerpts)

as set out at ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section

<http://www.abanet.org/tips/creed.html>

A. With respect to my client:

1. I will be loyal and committed to my client's cause, but I will not permit that loyalty and commitment to interfere with my ability to provide my client with objective and independent advice;
2. I will endeavor to achieve my client's lawful objectives in business transactions and in litigation as expeditiously and economically as possible;
* * *
7. I will advise my client that civility and courtesy are not to be equated with weakness;

B. With respect to opposing parties and their counsel:

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2. I will not knowingly make statements of fact or of law that are untrue;
* * *
11. I will clearly identify, for other counsel or parties, all changes that I have made in documents submitted to me for review.

C. With respect to the courts and other tribunals:

1. I will be a vigorous and zealous advocate on behalf of my client, while recognizing, as an officer of the court, that excessive zeal may be detrimental to my client's interests as well as to the proper functioning of our system of justice;
2. Where consistent with my client's interests, I will communicate with opposing counsel in an effort to avoid litigation and to resolve litigation that has actually commenced;
3. I will voluntarily withdraw claims or defenses when it becomes apparent that they do not have merit or are superfluous;
* * *
9. In civil matters, I will stipulate to facts as to which there is no genuine dispute;
11. I will at all times be candid with the court.

D. With respect to the public and to our system of justice:

1. I will remember that, in addition to commitment to my client's cause, my responsibilities as a lawyer include a devotion to the public good;
* * *
3. I will be mindful of the fact that, as a member of a self-regulating profession, it is incumbent on me to report violations by fellow lawyers of any disciplinary rule;
* * *
5. I will be mindful that the law is a learned profession and that among its desirable goals are devotion to public service, improvement of administration of justice, and the contribution of uncompensated time and civic influence on behalf of those persons who cannot afford adequate legal assistance.