

II. Programs and Activities

The existing professionalism commissions sponsor and host a variety of programs and activities that are the cornerstone of their efforts to promote lawyer professionalism. As discussed below, these activities have included: continuing legal education programs; convocations; town hall meetings; law school programs; professionalism awards; mentoring programs; conciliation programs; publications and websites; studies; activities to promote community service; and proposals for law reform. No commission undertakes all these activities. In general, the nature and extent of a commission's activities has depended on the resources available to it and the needs of the legal community, including the nature and extent of existing activities undertaken by other state and local institutions. Further, the activities of a professionalism center may depend on its philosophy. A center may elect to take a "micro" or "nuts-and-bolts" approach, emphasizing discrete projects to enhance professionalism within particular segments of the bar; it may take a "macro" or "big-picture" approach, examining the forces that influence professional conduct in light of changes in the profession and within society in general and exploring how to promote professionalism against the background of professional and societal developments; or, it may eschew any particular philosophy but elect to promote professionalism from a variety of angles.