

## Louisville Bar Association

# Creed of Professionalism

### Preface

This Creed of Professionalism is intended to be a guideline for lawyers in their dealings with clients, opposing parties and counsel, the courts, professional colleagues and associates, and the public at large. It is not designed to function as a disciplinary code, nor as a legal standard of care. Rather, the purpose of the Creed is aspirational, to serve as a statement of principles and goals for professionalism by and among lawyers.

### Guiding Principles

Integrity is an absolute. My word is my bond. I will adhere to the highest standard of conduct at all times.

### To My Clients

... I pledge loyalty, diligence and good judgment. I will act ethically and competently on my clients' behalf and will endeavor to achieve their objectives as efficiently and economically as possible.

### To Opposing Parties and Counsel

... I pledge honesty, courtesy and civility. I will always seek to resolve our disputes in a fair and dignified manner. I will keep my promises and commitments, and be guided by a fundamental sense of fair play.

### To the Courts

...I pledge respect, candor, punctuality and professionalism. I will always remember that I am an officer of the court, and I will demonstrate respect for the law, the courts, their staff, and the legal process. I will not engage in conduct which offends the dignity and decorum of judicial proceedings, causes disorder or disruption in the courtroom, or undermines the image of the legal profession.

### To My Colleagues and Associates

...I pledge to share my knowledge and experience. I will honor my mentors by mentoring others.

### To the Legal Profession

...I pledge my time and participation. I will always remember that we are a learned profession, not a trade or business, and do my part to maintain the difference. I will offer my time and talent for the betterment of the profession and will educate the public in the spirit and the letter of the law.

### To the Public

...I pledge to seek to improve the law and our system of justice. I will strive to make our legal system more accessible, affordable, and responsive to all. I will commit a portion of my time to pro bono service on behalf of individuals who cannot afford adequate legal assistance.

adopted June 2005