

ABA PROFESSIONALISM CODES AND CREEDS

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (ANNUAL MEETING 1988)

The Division's second recommendation was amended was amended by the proponents and approved by voice vote. As approved, it reads:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Bar Association authorizes the dissemination to the profession of the following "Lawyers' Pledge of Professionalism."

LAWYERS' PLEDGE OF PROFESSIONALISM

1. I will remember that the practice of law is first and foremost a profession, and I will subordinate business concerns to professionalism concerns.
2. I will encourage respect for the law and our legal system through my words and actions.
3. I will remember my responsibilities to serve as an officer of the court and protector of individual rights.
4. I will contribute time and resources to public service, public education, charitable, and pro bono activities in my community.
5. I will work with the other participants in the legal system, including judges, opposing counsel and those whose practices are different from mine, to make our legal system more accessible and responsive.
6. I will resolve matters expeditiously and without unnecessary expense.
7. I will resolve disputes through negotiation whenever possible.
8. I will keep my clients well-informed and involved in making the decisions that affect them.
9. I will continue to expand my knowledge of the law.
10. I will achieve and maintain proficiency in my practice.
11. I will be courteous to those with whom I come into contact during the course of my work.
12. I will honor the spirit and intent, as well as the requirements, of the applicable rules or code of professional conduct for my jurisdiction, and I will encourage others to do the same.

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