

SPECIFIC ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS

As to clients, I will aspire:

- (a) To expeditious and economical achievement of all client objectives.
- (b) To fully informed client decision-making. As a professional, I should:
 - 1) Counsel clients about all forms of dispute resolution;
 - 2) Counsel clients about the value of cooperation as a means towards the productive resolution of disputes;
 - 3) Maintain the sympathetic detachment that permits objective and independent advice to clients;
 - 4) Communicate promptly and clearly with clients; and,
 - 5) Reach clear agreements with clients concerning the nature of the representation.
- (c) To fair and equitable fee agreements. As a professional, I should:
 - 1) Discuss alternative methods of charging fees with all clients;
 - 2) Offer fee arrangements that reflect the true value of the services rendered;
 - 3) Reach agreements with clients as early in the relationship as possible;
 - 4) Determine the amount of fees by consideration of many factors and not just time spent by the attorney;
 - 5) Provide written agreements as to all fee arrangements; and
 - 6) Resolve all fee disputes through the arbitration methods provided by the State Bar of Georgia.
- (d) To comply with the obligations of confidentiality and the avoidance of conflicting loyalties in a manner designed to achieve the fidelity to clients that is the purpose of these obligations.

As to opposing parties and their counsel, I will aspire:

- (a) To cooperate with opposing counsel in a manner consistent with the competent representation of all parties. As a professional, I should:
 - 1) Notify opposing counsel in a timely fashion of any cancelled appearance;
 - 2) Grant reasonable requests for extensions or scheduling changes; and,
 - 3) Consult with opposing counsel in the scheduling of appearances, meetings, and depositions.
- (b) To treat opposing counsel in a manner consistent with his or her professional obligations and consistent with the dignity of the search for justice. As a professional, I should:
 - 1) Not serve motions or pleadings in such a manner or at such a time as to preclude opportunity for a competent response;

- 2) Be courteous and civil in all communications;
- 3) Respond promptly to all requests by opposing counsel;
- 4) Avoid rudeness and other acts of disrespect in all meetings including depositions and negotiations;
- 5) Prepare documents that accurately reflect the agreement of all parties; and
- 6) Clearly identify all changes made in documents submitted by opposing counsel for review.

As to the courts, other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I will aspire:

- (a) To represent my clients in a manner consistent with the proper functioning of a fair, efficient, and humane system of justice. As a professional, I should:
 - 1) Avoid non-essential litigation and non-essential pleading in litigation;
 - 2) Explore the possibilities of settlement of all litigated matters;
 - 3) Seek non-coerced agreement between the parties on procedural and discovery matters;
 - 4) Avoid all delays not dictated by a competent presentation of a client's claims;
 - 5) Prevent misuses of court time by verifying the availability of key participants for scheduled appearances before the court and by being punctual; and
 - 6) Advise clients about the obligations of civility, courtesy, fairness, cooperation, and other proper behavior expected of those who use our systems of justice.
- (b) To model for others the respect due to our courts. As a professional 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; and,
 - 8) Seek to understand the judiciary's obligations of informed and impartial decision-making.

As to my colleagues in the practice of law, I will aspire:

- (a) To recognize and to develop our interdependence;
- (b) To respect the needs of others, especially the need to develop as a whole person; and,

- (c) To assist my colleagues become better people in the practice of law and to accept their assistance offered to me.

As to our profession, I will aspire:

- (a) To improve the practice of law. As a professional, I should:
- 1) Assist in continuing legal education efforts;
 - 2) Assist in organized bar activities; and,
 - 3) Assist law schools in the education of our future lawyers.
- (b) To protect the public from incompetent or other wrongful lawyering. As a professional, I should:
- 1) Assist in bar admissions activities;
 - 2) Report violations of ethical regulations by fellow lawyers; and,
 - 3) Assist in the enforcement of the legal and ethical standards imposed upon all lawyers.

As to the public and our systems of justice, I will aspire:

- (a) To counsel clients about the moral and social consequences of their conduct.
- (b) To consider the effect of my conduct on the image of our systems of justice including the social effect of advertising methods. As a professional, I should ensure that any advertisement of my services:
- 1) is consistent with the dignity of the justice system and a learned profession;
 - 2) provides a beneficial service to the public by providing accurate information about the availability of legal services;
 - 3) educates the public about the law and legal system;
 - 4) provides completely honest and straightforward information about my qualifications, fees, and costs; and
 - 5) does not imply that clients' legal needs can be met only through aggressive tactics.
- (c) To provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all.
- (d) To support organizations that provide pro bono representation to indigent clients. (e) To improve our laws and legal system by, for example:
- 1) Serving as a public official;
 - 2) Assisting in the education of the public concerning our laws and legal system;
 - 3) Commenting publicly upon our laws; and,
 - 4) Using other appropriate methods of effecting positive change in our laws and legal system.