



STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL COURTESY AND ETHICS BETWEEN THE JUDICIARY AND ATTORNEYS

The protection and preservation of the dignity, independence, credibility, fairness and efficiency of the administration of justice is the indivisible and primary responsibility of the bench and the bar. There are, however, discrete functions that attach to this responsibility which are defined by the following specific standards.

Courts not only implement but symbolize the administration of justice and their effectiveness depends upon public trust and belief.

The judiciary must therefore refrain from conduct or unjust or unnecessary criticism that will bring disrespect to the judiciary.

Courts have a fundamental duty to insure full and complete justice to all parties regardless of the case or the identity of the party.

Judges should generally rule in accordance with applicable statutes, precedents and facts regardless of personal bias or conviction, without regard to the effect on the parties and with a full and balanced exposition of the reasons for all rulings.

Attorneys are bound, as officers of the court, to inform the court of all applicable laws and not to misrepresent to the court any pertinent fact, regardless of the effect such law or fact may have on the court's ruling or the judgement of a jury.

The proper administration of justice requires disposition of all cases in as expeditious and economical manner as is consistent with full presentation, consideration and deliberation.

Attorneys are therefore required to minimize undue delay, to cooperate fully with clients and opposing counsel in advancing cases in an orderly and timely fashion, and to bring to the attention of the court for appropriate action any impermissible delay.

The judiciary is likewise required to minimize delays, inadvertent or intended; to promulgate rules and procedures for the rapid and complete disposition of all cases, enforce diligently and impartially such rules and procedures, and to decide promptly all matters submitted to it.

Strong public support of the judicial system is vital to the ability of the bench and bar to discharge their duties.

The bench and bar shall accord common courtesy, respect, and civility on all occasions to all persons involved in the judicial process.

The bench and bar shall always be conscious of the broader duty to the administration of justice and their duty to the legal system.

In sum, the bench and bar shall act to ensure that all judicial proceedings are conducted in a manner which will preserve and foster the integrity of the judicial system.