

Model Code of Professional Responsibility.

American Bar Association, 1981.

Preamble and Preliminary Statement:

<http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/cpr/mrpc/mcpr.authcheckdam.pdf>

The continued existence of a free and democratic society depends upon recognition of the concept that justice is based upon the rule of law grounded in respect for the dignity of the individual and his capacity through reason for enlightened self-government.

Law so grounded makes justice possible, for only through such law does the dignity of the individual attain respect and protection.

Without it, individual rights become subject to unrestrained power, respect for law is destroyed, and rational self-government is impossible.

Lawyers, as guardians of the law, play a vital role in the preservation of society.

The fulfillment of this role requires an understanding by lawyers of their relationship with and function in our legal system. A consequent obligation of lawyers is to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct.

In fulfilling his professional responsibilities, a lawyer necessarily assumes various roles that require the performance of many difficult tasks.

Not every situation which he may encounter can be foreseen, but fundamental ethical principles are always present to guide him.

With in the frame work of these principles, a lawyer must with courage and foresight be able and ready to shape the body of the law to the ever-changing relationships of society.

The Model Code of Professional Responsibility points the way to the aspiring and provides standards by which to judge the transgressor.

Each lawyer must find within his own conscience the touchstone against which to test the extent to which his actions should rise above minimum standards.

But in the last analysis it is the desire for the respect and confidence of the members of his profession and of the society which he serves that should provide to a lawyer the incentive for the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.

The possible loss of that respect and confidence is the ultimate sanction.

So long as its practitioners are guided by these principles, the law will continue to be a noble profession.

This is its greatness and its strength, which permit of no compromise.

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