

The Lawyers' Creed of Professionalism, set forth below, is a set of written tenets that step beyond ethics, serving as a heightened reminder to attorneys of the professional conduct expected in the practice of law in Montgomery County. This Creed was drafted and adopted by the Bar Association of Montgomery County in 1992 as a condition of membership in the Association. The Circuit Court for Montgomery County and the members of the Bar Association of Montgomery County respectfully request that you adhere to these professional standards while practicing law in this jurisdiction. For further information on the Lawyers' Creed call BAMC at (301)424-3454.

## **LAWYERS' CREED**

As a lawyer, I serve as a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system, and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice. In carrying out my responsibilities, I recognize that demonstrating respect and courtesy for all those who serve, and are served, by the legal system will further the notion that the practice of law is a profession, and will enhance the image of all who serve the legal system. To that end, I will conduct myself in accordance with the following creed:

1. I will be faithfully committed to my clients' just causes, and will pursue such causes expeditiously and without unnecessary expense.
2. I will not misuse procedural, ethical or substantive rules or forego common courtesies and customs of the profession to gain an unfair advantage, or to abuse or harass an opposing party or counsel.
3. I will act as an advocate for my clients, but will maintain my professional demeanor and conduct myself with appropriate civility and courtesy at all times.
4. I will act in good faith to honor commitments made to my clients, the court and to opposing parties and counsel.
5. I will endeavor to resolve my clients' causes by negotiation and by other means where appropriate in order to avoid litigation and trial, consistent with my clients' best interest.
6. I will not advertise or market my professional services in a manner that demeans the legal profession.
7. I will act to keep the legal system free from all forms of wrongful discrimination.

### **NOTE**

This Creed is intended to improve the overall professionalism and image of the attorneys in their dealings with the courts, other attorneys, clients and the community at large. It augments the requirements of the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct and is subject to the scope of those Rules.