

Honor the law,

Respect the law,

But never worship the law.

The law does not represent our highest standards.

The law is the lowest common denominator, that is,

a set of rules of minimum acceptable behavior.

And you can do better than that.

Honorable Warren K. Urbom (April 24, 2002)

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR IMPROVED CIVILITY

- Be polite and treat others with respect
- Establish a mentoring relationship
- Never engage in personal attacks
- Return phone calls
- Keep your appointments
- Do not prolong litigation or drain financial resources
- Avoid allegations of impropriety
- Recharge outside the law to relieve stress
- Dealing with uncivil lawyers
 - Do not respond in kind
 - Respond with politeness and/or humor
 - Pause to think: collect yourself, and the pause calls attention to inappropriate behavior
 - Talk softer
 - Do not take incivility personally or harbor resentment
- Inexperienced lawyers
 - Inform them (in private, if possible) of their mistakes and avoid publicly humiliating them
 - Accept helpful criticism