

## PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCIPLINE

By

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### SWAN SONG

Within a few days after this article is published, I will be succeeded as Administrative Director on Professional Conduct by R. Paul Sharood of St. Paul, who, I am sure, is known to most of you.

During my tenure, I have had the finest kind of assistance and cooperation from the Supreme Court, the members of the State Board of Professional Responsibility, the twenty-district Bar Association ethics committees, my assistants, Bob Meier and Audrey Sterner, to whom I have already expressed my appreciation.

This article is addressed to the thousands of Minnesota lawyers and judges who have had no official part in administering the disciplinary procedures.

Among the reasons that I assumed the duties of my office is that I have great pride in my profession, and I felt I had some qualifications which might aid in making the rules effective. Further, it was my firm conviction that the lawyers and judges of Minnesota, except for the comparatively few requiring the existence of ethics committees, are the finest people on earth, and I felt it would be a rewarding experience to work for and with them. During my entire professional life, my greatest pleasures, outside of my family, have come from my association with lawyers and judges. My opinion of the lawyers and judges of Minnesota has not been changed during my term of office as Administrative Director on Professional Conduct but, to the contrary, has been confirmed.

From the beginning, I knew that no matter how good our rules might be, they could not be made fully effective without the cooperation of the lawyers and judges of Minnesota. For this reason, I talked to every district bar association in the state and to the various judges' associations, seeking cooperation. This cooperation has been overwhelming, and has made possible progress far beyond my expectations. For this I thank you, and I can ask no greater favor for my successor, Paul Sharood, than that you furnish to him the same fine cooperation you have furnished me.

And so I close this, my Swan Song, with a salute to the lawyers and judges of Minnesota.