

## REFLECTION AND RESOLUTION

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January is traditionally a time of reflection and resolution. This process can and should include one's professional development and progress. A suggested "inventory" could include the following:

1. Do I take on work which I can handle in a reasonably prompt and competent manner?
2. Do I in fact attend to my professional commitments diligently?
3. Do I maintain the communication with my clients which I would expect and desire if I were in their position?
4. Do I arrive at a clear understanding about fees at the outset of representation and reduce the fee agreement in writing.
5. Do I have appropriate office systems for keeping track of my files and commitments, receiving and responding to communications, and insuring that conflicts of interest are avoided?
6. Do I refrain from cocktail party and lunch table conversation about my client's affairs?
7. Am I sensitive to the rules concerning conflicts of interest and do I resolve all doubts against the propriety of multiple representation?
8. Do I promptly forward to clients their books, papers and other property including the client file when requested at the termination of representation?
9. Do I maintain appropriate books and records to reflect the income and expenses attributable to my practice and my handling of trust funds?
10. Is my trust account in order?
11. Am I courteous to courts, clients, fellow lawyers and others with whom I come in contact in my professional capacity?
12. Do I pay my professional and personal obligations, including taxes promptly?
13. Do I effectively train, utilize and supervise the non-lawyer assistants employed in my office?
14. Have I been active in attempting to improve the legal system?

15. Have I been moderate and sensible in my use of alcohol?
16. Is there balance in my life as reflected in non-professional activities, exercise, vacations and relationships so that I maintain and enhance my professional performance rather than burning out?

No doubt we all can improve in some of the above areas. Our individual improvements can bring us personal satisfaction and can collectively enhance the image of the legal profession and reduce significantly the number of disciplinary matters.

### COMMUNICATION AND JUSTICE

If language is not used rightly, then what is said is not what is meant.

If what is said is not what is meant, then that which ought to be done is left undone.

If it remains undone, morals and art will be corrupted.

If morals and art are corrupted, justice will go awry.

And if justice goes awry, the people will stand about in helpless confusion.

### "LEGAL LUNACY" FEATURED IN STUDENT LAWYER MAGAZINE

CHICAGO – The annual compilation of humorous law-related anecdotes is featured in the current issue of *Student Lawyer Magazine*, a publication of the American Bar Association Law Student Division.

The "1982 *Student Lawyer* Compendium of Legal Lunacy" highlights forty-five incidents ranging from the amusing to the outrageous.

A sampling of the 45 featured cases of "legal lunacy" includes the following:

- \* An undercover female police officer and an equally incognito male colleague were participating in a sweep of male and female prostitutes on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. The two officers, who didn't know each other, engaged in a little intramural entrapment. The male officer propositioned the female one, the woman officer agreed, then both officers flashed badges and tried to arrest each other.
- \* In a ruling that will disappoint secretaries from coast-to-coast, a Norristown, Pennsylvania judge found secretary Debra Brown, 38, guilty of spiking her boss's cocoa with Valium each morning to calm him down. She was fined \$1,200 and placed on a year's probation on assault charges. Brown testified that she was afraid her boss was going to be fired because he was excitable.
- \* Cleveland, Ohio cops say a seven-year-old boy with a "mean expression on his face" tried to rob a fried chicken franchise at knife point while his five-year-old brother stood guard outside. The four-footer, who weighs only 45 pounds, was wielding an eight-and-a-half-inch blade. Employees told the child they would call his mother if he proceeded with the robbery, but he responded, "You don't know her number." Ultimately, the cops were called and the gruesome twosome were returned to their mother. Newspaper accounts don't indicate whether she was glad to have them back.

- \* Investigators for the Department of Health and Human Services and for the Immigration and Naturalization Service said that phony Social Security cards and other fraudulent documents are often sold to illegal aliens who want to establish identities as U.S. citizens. They recently cracked a ring trafficking in bogus Social Security cards because the applications for the document were too neat to pass for government work.
- \* New York City's biggest sex emporium – “offering seven live bedroom acts . . . sex fantasy club” – is an X-rated operation partly financed by the federal government. The Small Business Administration says it wasn't aware at the time that its 1977 loan of \$65,000 at 9 percent interest was helping a business in Times Square that had been raided by police and subject to repeated obscenity charges.

The SBA said that it wasn't aware of the true nature of the business until 1980. Even so, the law only bars loans to gambling operations, and the sex emporium is, technically at least, a legal business. An SBA spokeswoman added that withdrawing the loan might have raised First Amendment issues.

Besides, pointed out the SBA, the company repaid its loan ahead of schedule.