

## Principles of Scope

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, the first body of its kind in the nation, was created in 1989 by the Supreme Court of Georgia to enhance professionalism among Georgia's lawyers. The Commission has adopted the following principles:

1. Scope. Projects unrelated to professionalism are not within the scope of the Commission's work. The Commission can produce, support, endorse, and recommend programs and policies that enhance professionalism. Appropriate projects reflect the Commission's values of competence, civility, and character by promoting the lawyer's roles as counselor, officer of the court, and solver of problems. We are committed to the rule of law; to pro bono, community and public service; to improving the law and the legal system; and to ensuring access to the system for all. These values are set forth more fully in *A Lawyer's Creed* and the *Aspirational Statement on Professionalism* adopted by the Commission and the Supreme Court in 1990. The Commission will not produce programs unrelated to professionalism.
2. Internal Focus. As its internal focus for the next 3-5 years the Commission will develop guidelines for using its resources, enhancing its media presence, strengthening the Commission's professionalism curriculum and materials, reviewing and (if necessary) revising Commission policies, and similar housekeeping matters.
3. External Focus. In the next 3-5 years the Commission's primary external focus will be on supporting the professionalism programming of all CLE providers, and increasing awareness among lawyers of access to justice initiatives and gaps.

In addition to its own programming the Commission may support, endorse, or recommend professionalism programs and policies of other (groups/providers/bar organizations) by providing resources or convening relevant stakeholders.

The Commission believes in "teaching people how to fish" instead of "providing fish" for the legal community. In keeping with this philosophy we may provide seed money for pilot projects but we do not provide direct legal services or ongoing financial or in-kind support for projects. The Commission will not define wellness regimens for attorneys or make rules around wellness.

**[KYG NOTE:** Currently wellness is a component of professionalism. Thus the Commission staff must approve wellness programs that seek professionalism credit. The Commission needs to clarify for the staff going forward if approval of wellness programs should continue to fall within the scope of the Commission's work.]