



State Bar
of Georgia

Speakers & Writers Bureau of the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism
(with staff support from the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism)
Presents

The Significant Lawyer: The Pursuit of Purpose and Professionalism

January 23, 2024, 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM

State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta Street, NW, Meeting Room 5, Atlanta, GA 30303
and
Via Zoom Webinar

Please review *A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism* for the discussion points below each topic. See <http://tinyurl.com/38rts45t>

- 12:15 p.m. **Welcome & Opening Remarks by Kevin Patrick, Moderating**
- 12:17 p.m. **Introduction of Hon. William S. Duffey, Jr., Judge, U.S. District Court, N.D.G.A. (Retired)**
- 12:20 p.m. **Topic I – The impact of personal financial management on law practice**
- **To the profession**, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service. (Lines 16 – 18)
 - To expeditious and economical achievement of all client objectives. (Line 72)
 - To fair and equitable fee agreements. As a professional, I should:
 - (1) Discuss alternative methods of charging fees with all clients;
 - (2) Offer fee arrangements that reflect the true value of the services rendered;
 - (3) Reach agreements with clients as early in the relationship as possible;
 - (4) Determine the amount of fees by consideration of many factors and not just time spent by the attorney;
 - (5) Provide written agreements as to all fee arrangements; and
 - (6) Resolve all fee disputes through the arbitration methods provided by the State Bar of Georgia.(Lines 84 – 92)
- 12:35 p.m. **Topic II – The tendency of lawyers (transaction and litigation) to focus on opposing counsel and not the issues in a matter and the interests of their client. (11 Minutes)**
- **To the opposing parties and their counsel**, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one. (Lines 6 – 9)
 - Maintain the sympathetic detachment that permits objective and independent advice to clients; (Lines 79 – 80)
- 12:50 p.m. **Topic III – Developing a trust relationship with a client; winning the client's confidence. (11 Minutes)**
- **To my clients**, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust. (Lines 2 – 5)
- 1:05 p.m. **Topic IV – Developing a community of confidants with shared interests. (11 Minutes)**
- **To my colleagues in the practice of law**, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship. (Lines 13 – 15)
- 1:20p.m. **Audience Questions, Moderated by Kevin Patrick**
- 1:28 p.m. **Closing Remarks by Kevin Patrick**