

SAMPLE CODES OF
PERSONAL CONDUCT

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

My Personal Code of Conduct

1. Justice is the most beloved of all in the sight of God. Therefore, I commit my life to serve justice to the best of my ability.
2. I will use my profession to serve people in a way that equates to serving and worshiping God.
3. Advancement and growth of the real me, resulting from devotional service to humanity, will be the true reward for my efforts.
4. In my professional conduct, I will always remember the virtues that I believe in, and will strive to conduct my self accordingly.
5. Each night, I shall summon my soul in front of the court of my conscience, in order not to stray too far away from the right path.
6. I would never sell justice and my soul to the highest bidder.
7. I would make sure even those whose injustice has scarred me for life would not be treated unjustly by me.
8. I will always try to forgive personal injustices towards myself, but never injustices to others.
9. I would not hesitate to let even saving my own life prevent me from my duties as a minister of justice.
10. Last, but not least, I will always be aware of the presence of God and would behave in a way that I would be worthy of calling myself a Baha'i.

Personal Code of Conduct:

I would like to be able to say that I am honest in all that I do, but that would itself be a statement of dishonesty on my part. The truth is that I have been dishonest in that past. I have lied to my parents at times in order to minimize any potential punishment for my bad behavior. I have lied to my friends at times in order to get out of lending my friends money or going to a party. I have lied to telemarketers who ask to speak to my parents that they are not at home, even though they were sitting right in front of me at the time. I am not a completely honest person because I have apparently found, as an indication of my reactions in certain circumstances, that it is not always practical to be honest 100% of the time in life. But these reactions that have resulted in consequences that have only affected me... and, of course, my parents, friends, and random telemarketers. The truth is that I can be dishonest at times when it is convenient to be so. I call it "convenient dishonesty".

My future practice of law will be focused around helping and advising clients – real people with real problems who will rely on me to resolve issues that they could not resolve themselves. This is the exact reason that I am working to obtain my law degree and be a "minister of justice", as they call it. The reality is that in order to uphold the integrity of the legal profession, each individual member of the profession must uphold the integrity in himself or herself. This means that each legal professional must be honest in all that he or she does. Each lawyer must act with integrity at all times, especially at times when it is difficult to do so because that is when it counts the most. Each of us must be honest enough without ourselves in order to know our individual professional strengths, weaknesses, and limitations.

I hope to soon become a member of the legal profession. Honestly, my convenient dishonesty is an improper character trait, and what is worse is that it is in my control. Lawyers undoubtedly on a day-to-day basis are faced with situations where convenient dishonesty could lead them on the path to least resistance and make their lives incredibly easier. Convenient dishonesty is a tempting choice. But this choice can affect not only their integrity and reputation, but it will also adversely affect the integrity of their clients. This is not the kind of lawyer that I want to be. I want to be the legal professional that upholds integrity in herself, thereby upholding the integrity of the legal profession. I don't want to be conveniently dishonest anymore. A client could never trust or respect someone who is dishonest. I want my clients to trust and respect me. I want to protect my clients, and I want to do so openly, sincerely, and with the utmost integrity.

The Laws of Conduct to be followed by [REDACTED]

All the standards of professional conduct, whether contained in Acts of Congress or in practice rules (written or unwritten) which are binding upon lawyers in United States of America are based upon certain values and principles which form the foundation of the profession and reflect the legal, moral and professional obligations of the lawyer to:

1. the clients;
2. the courts and other authorities before whom a lawyer pleads his client's cause or acts on his behalf;
3. the public; and
4. the legal profession in general and each fellow member of it in particular.¹

And Carlo will also follow:

5. A lawyer must always act with integrity and always looks out for their client's interest and will not misrepresent a client, or, through inaction, allow a client to be misrepresented.
6. A lawyer must obey the wishes given by clients, except where such wishes would conflict with the above.
7. A lawyer must act with values, such as honesty, responsibility, loyalty and respect for everyone in order to ensure a successful and fruitful career as an advocate for those who need a voice when there is a void of Justice.²

A quote I like to go by:

The Bottom Line

Face it, nobody owes you a living.
What you achieve, or fail to achieve in your lifetime,
Is directly related to what you do, or fail to do.
No one chooses his parents or childhood,
But you can choose your direction.
Everyone has problems and obstacles to overcome
But, that, too, is relative to each individual

Nothing is carved in stone
You can change anything in your life,
If you want it badly enough.
Excuses are for losers.
Those who take responsibility for their actions
Are the real winners in life.
Winners meet life's challenges head on,

¹ Taken from the Code of Conduct for solicitors in Scotland.

² Idea came from the movie *I, Robot*.

My personal code of conduct

- 1) Remember the Golden Rule: I will treat others as I wish to be treated.
- 2) I will keep all commitments, so as to be true to myself as well as to others.
- 3) I will always remember to listen to and respect my wife because she is a very intelligent and wonderful woman.
- 4) I will not forget those who help me to achieve my goals in life.
- 5) I will be honest when I make a mistake and admit my error.
- 6) I will learn from my mistakes.
- 7) I will show integrity in all that I do.
- 8) When another helps me, I will always show genuine gratitude.
- 9) I will not talk on my cell phone when I am disturbing others' privacy; because I do not appreciate my privacy being disturbed.
- 10) I will remember that my happiness should not revolve around whether my favorite sports team wins or loses.

Personal Code Of Conduct

“Property may be destroyed and money may lose its purchasing power; but, character, health, knowledge and good judgment will always be in demand under all conditions.”
— Roger Babson

1. Honesty always.

“It is better to be defeated on principle than to win on lies.”

-- Arthur Calwell

2. Responsibility in all I do.

“There are seven sins in the world: Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Worship without sacrifice and politics without principle.”

-- Mahatma Gandhi

3. Compassion for others.

“If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.”

-- Maya Angelou

4. Abiding by the law.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” -- Ghandi

5. To keep learning to always be my best.

“Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life.”

-- Brigham Young

6. Putting others first.

“Politeness and consideration for others is like investing pennies and getting dollars back.”

-- Thomas Sowell, *Creators Syndicate*

Professional Code of Conduct

Gandhi said be the change you wish to see in the world. In part, the reason why I'm attending law school is because I believe my degree will further assist me in evoking such a positive change.

I will continue my quest to be a good person by the definition I've set forth of a good person. A good person is moral yet perhaps not moral as so many have come to define this word. In the times in which we currently reside, a great deal is made of morality and being a moral person; too often these definitions of morality encompass some notion of hatred. I will be moral by working to promote equality and fairness. I'll continue working for the underdog, especially in those situations when that individual can't fight for him or herself.

I'll attempt to exert patience even at times when it seems a near impossible goal to reach.

I was once privileged enough to be defined as a person of integrity. This was one of the highest compliments I've ever received, and I'll continue trying to exhibit the traits of a person with integrity.

I'll abide by the Golden Rule because perhaps if we each did this, the world would be a kinder place.

I'll live by those principles which my mother taught me at a young age: loyalty and honesty.

Oftentimes, persons who hire an attorney are at one of the most vulnerable points in their life. Therefore, I'll work towards being the type of person that these individuals can trust implicitly.

Education is a key component to a well-rounded, balanced life and therefore, I'll not only focus on my law school studies but on other areas that I believe will help me be a better person and will allow me to excel as an attorney. I'll also do my best to recognize that there is something to learn from everyone, even those who you may not agree with.

I'll fulfill my obligations to others.

I'll abide by the law.

Finally, I'll be true to myself because one can only be true to others when they are true to themselves.

Personal Code of Conduct

1. I will be more than human: I will be humane.
2. I will be more than good: I will be excellent.
3. I will do more than survive: I will succeed.
4. I will do more than succeed: I will serve humanity.
5. I will do more than win: I will be an agent of transformation.
6. I will do more than lose graciously: I will accept defeat with dignity.
7. I will do more than what is needed: I will do more than enough.
8. I will abide by the following maxims, enunciated by Baha'u'llah, founder of the Bahá'í Faith:

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.

Source: <<http://reference.bahai.org/en/t/b/GWB/gwb-130.html>>.

Personal Code of Conduct

I, as a law student, future lawyer and person in society, agree to live by the following code:

I understand that this is a thread that will flow through every part of my life, and I must constantly work on and improve my behavior.

I will be honest in all that I do.

This includes my communications with those around

I will strive to maintain the utmost integrity in my actions

All day, every day – there is no break from yourself or life.

I will be loyal to others

This includes no gossiping, no sharing private information entrusted to me.

I will give my personal best at all times

I will be prepared for school, work, home & not procrastinate on items I don't enjoy if they need to be done.

I will put others first

I will work to include others in my life that I have said I have no time for

I will act responsibly

I realize that I am the same person 24/7

ANYONE I come in contact with sees my current behavior as the person I am.

I will treat others with courtesy and respect, regardless of the circumstances

Everyone has different burdens, responsibilities, and capabilities. We are all different.

I will abide and respect the law.

It is there to protect all of us. How can you uphold something you don't embrace?

Being a good lawyer and a good person takes all of these attributes.

Whatever state we're in, we can always improve.

Personal Code of Conduct

I value Most:

Honesty, personally and in my profession. To be trusted by my friends, family and colleagues is a high honor.

Loyalty to my family and friends:

Commitment and loyalty to and taking care of my family.

Commitment and loyalty to and being there for my friends.

Thoughtfulness to others.

Taking care of myself both physically and mentally.

Courtesy, no matter what the circumstances.

Integrity: not making promises I can't keep.

Facing the Consequences of my mistakes.

Fairness

Loyalty to both my school and my employer.

Loyalty to my profession.

Hard work and success.

Honesty to myself about my abilities and lack there of.

Growing as a person, taking new challenges.

Being a role model to others in my life and profession.

Serving my community.

PERSONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

A good lawyer is one who possess the ability to listen and not judge. A good lawyer is one who is honest, trustworthy and have strong moral ethics. A good lawyer must display these ethics at all times even if not being reciprocated. A good lawyer never lets another question his/her integrity. A good lawyer is always professional and kind, even in the worse of circumstances.

The following standards should be included in your life and practice:

1. Being honest at all times.
2. Not passing judgment.
3. Putting your client's interest first.
4. Respect all even those who may lack respect for you.
5. Respect the law at all times, even if you do not always agree with it.
6. Always stand for the hard right against the easy wrong.
7. Help those who are not able to help themselves.
8. Be loyal to yourself, the law and your client at all times.
9. Listen
10. Maintain Integrity - Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code.

Personal Oath

My goal in life is to give God the glory in everything that I do both in my personal life and in my professional life.

1. To be honest: in thoughts, words, and actions
2. To be diligent in maintaining a good work ethic (no laziness) getting things done in a timely fashion
3. To take responsibility for my words and actions (good or bad)
4. To do what is right both morally and according to the law no matter what the consequences are
5. To walk worthy of my calling [of being a "minister of justice"] by always striving for excellence even in the smallest of things
6. To always be prepared and continually renew my knowledge and understanding of the law
7. To remain thankful for the opportunity to be in the position to uphold justice
8. To put my all into every job that get as an attorney; from the first job, to the last