



Attorney Professionalism Forum

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Carl F. Regelman, Esq., their colleagues and Members of the New
York State Bar Association Committee on Attorney Professionalism

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INTRODUCTION

The Attorney Professionalism Forum is made possible through the efforts of the Committee on Attorney Professionalism (“CAP”) of the New York State Bar Association (“NYSBA”) and is published in the monthly issues of the NYSBA Journal. This eBook is a compendium of Forums published in the Journal between January 2012 and December 2020, principally written by Vincent J. Syracuse of Tannenbaum Helpern Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP (“Tannenbaum Helpern”) with CAP members and his present and former colleagues at Tannenbaum Helpern, including Maryann C. Stallone, Carl F. Regelmann and Alyssa C. Goldrich.

The Forum is intended to promote thought and discussion on the subject of attorney professionalism, civility, ethics and professional responsibility. Although often sourced from court decisions and ethics opinions, each Forum is based on hypothetical questions using fictional names, characters and locations. Any resemblance to actual events or to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental. Over the years, the Forum has covered a wide range of topics of interest to the bench and bar including proper dress and decorum in the courtroom, civility, the use of the internet and social media, difficult clients, judges and adversaries, diversity, escrow accounts and engagement letters, the use of cryptocurrency for the payment of legal fees, and the challenges of virtual practice. The goal of the Forum is to identify the ethical issues faced by members of the legal profession as they interact with judges, lawyers, clients and the public and aims to answer each question by blending analysis of applicable law and the rules of professional conduct with practical guidance on how to best act as a professional. The views expressed in each Forum are those of the authors, and not those of CAP or the NYSBA. They are not official opinions on ethical or professional matters, nor should they be cited as such.

Readers are invited to send in comments or alternate views about the Forum and suggestions regarding future topics are always welcome. Comments should be addressed to NYSBA, One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207, Attn: Attorney Professionalism Forum, or by email to journal@nysba.org.

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