



The Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism

Professionalism: No Excuses!



MISSION

To promote the fundamental ideals and values of the justice system within the legal system, and to instill those ideals of character, competence, commitment, and civility in all those persons serving therein.



WHAT DOES PROFESSIONALISM MEAN TO YOU?





Join at menti.com | use code 7531 3385

 Mentimeter

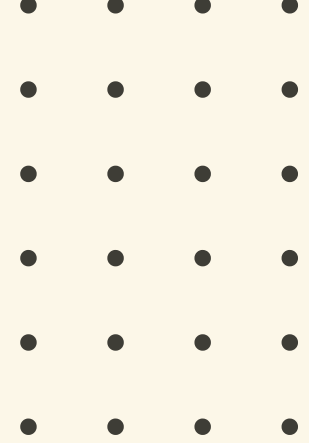
What does professionalism mean to you?

→ End presentation





Professionalism is not aspirational in Florida. It is **EXPECTED.**



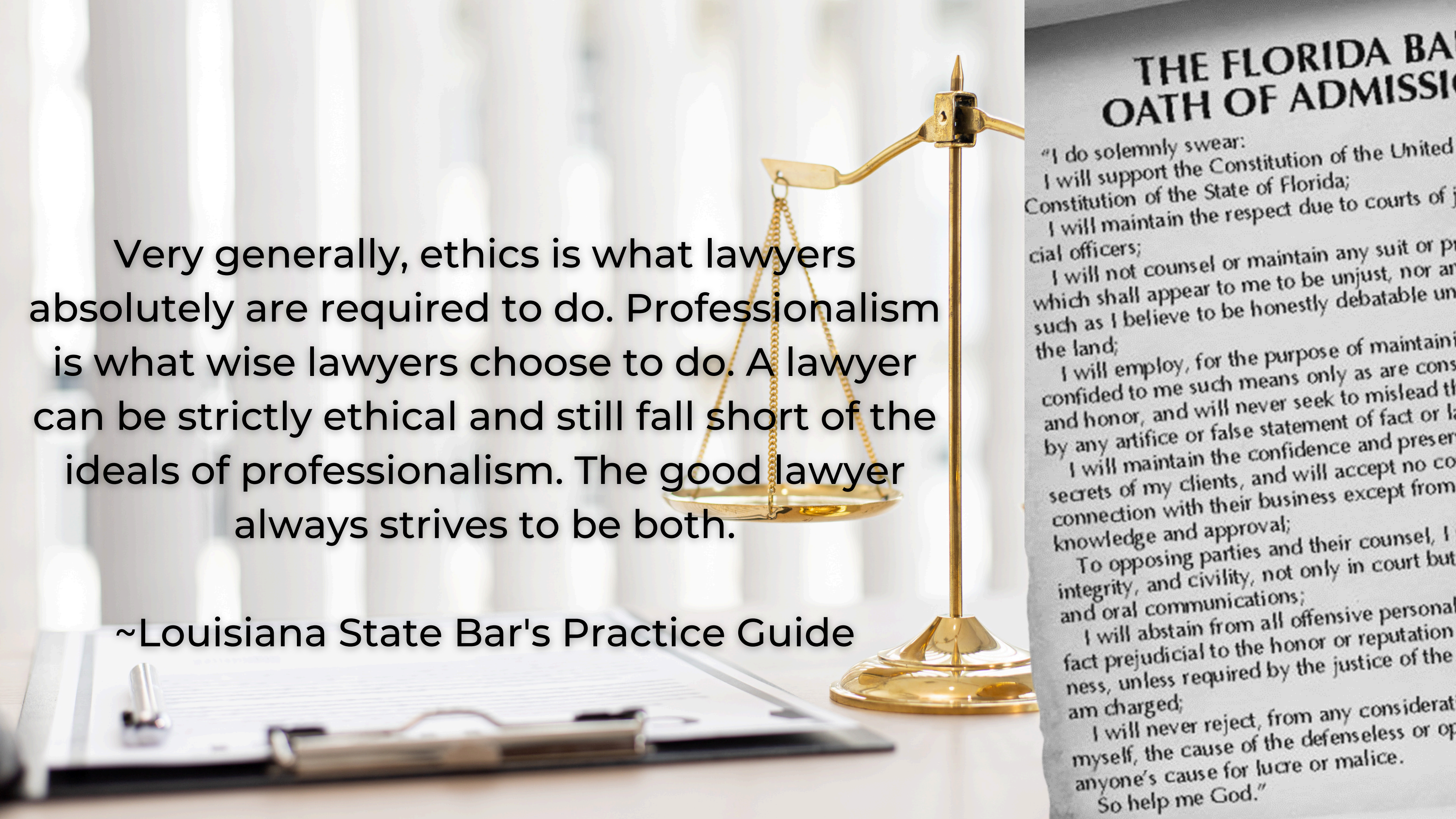
*Be of good
CHARACTER.

*Be **COMPETENT.**

*Be **COMMITTED** to the
profession.

*Be **CIVIL.**





Very generally, ethics is what lawyers absolutely are required to do. Professionalism is what wise lawyers choose to do. A lawyer can be strictly ethical and still fall short of the ideals of professionalism. The good lawyer always strives to be both.

~Louisiana State Bar's Practice Guide

THE FLORIDA BAR OATH OF ADMISSION

"I do solemnly swear:
I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida;
I will maintain the respect due to courts of justice and to judicial officers;

I will not counsel or maintain any suit or proceeding which shall appear to me to be unjust, nor any transaction such as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law of the land;

I will employ, for the purpose of maintaining the rights of those confided to me such means only as are consistent with the truth, and honor, and will never seek to mislead the tribunal by any artifice or false statement of fact or law;

I will maintain the confidence and preserve the secrets of my clients, and will accept no compensation for my services in connection with their business except from them or their knowledge and approval;

To opposing parties and their counsel, I will exhibit the same integrity, and civility, not only in court but in all my professional and oral communications;

I will abstain from all offensive personal conduct, and from any business, professional or personal, which may bring me into disrepute, discredit, or dishonor, unless required by the justice of the cause in which I am charged;

I will never reject, from any consideration of party or interest, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, and I will never accept anyone's cause for lucre or malice.
So help me God."

Professionalism Matters Because of Public Perception

POLITICS JANUARY 12, 2022

Military Brass, Judges Among Professions at New Image Lows

BY LYDIA SAAD



2025 Honesty and Ethics of Professions Ratings

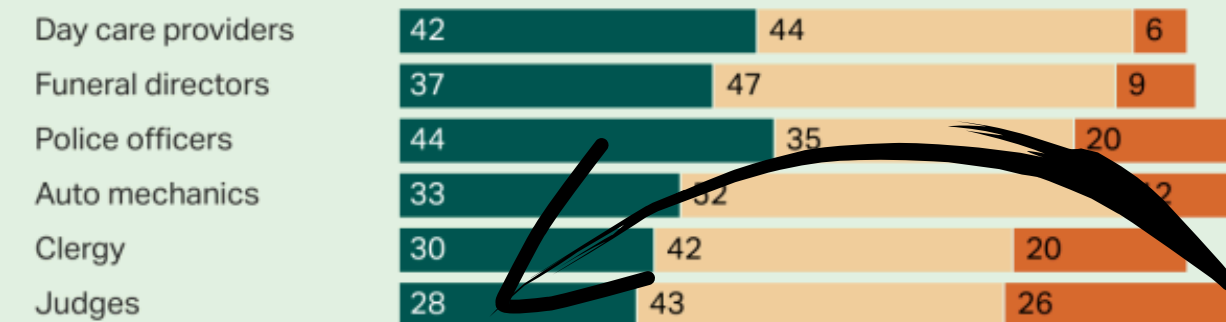
Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields -- very high, high, average, low or very low?

■ % High/Very high ■ % Average ■ % Low/Very low

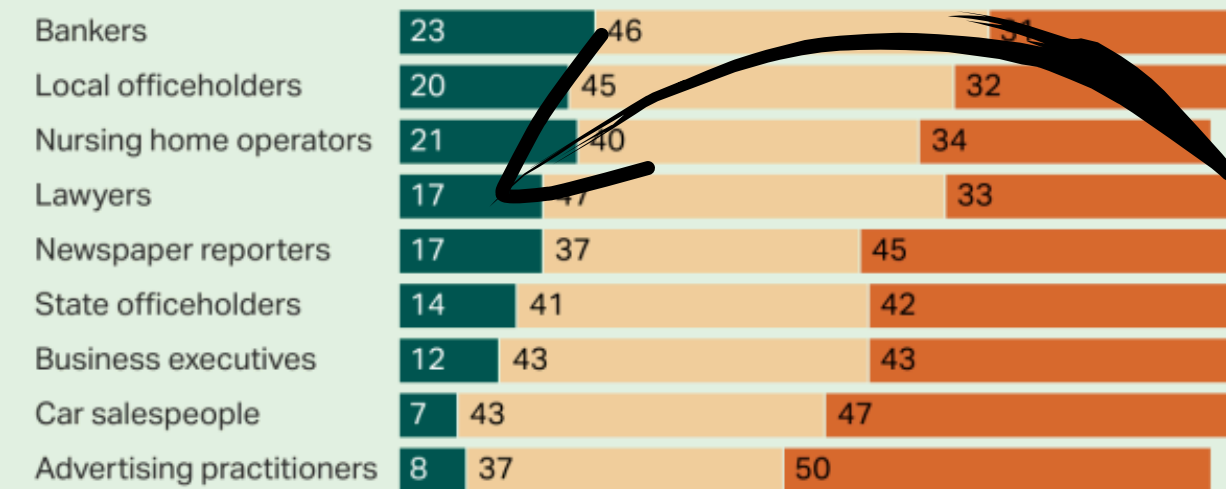
Majority positive



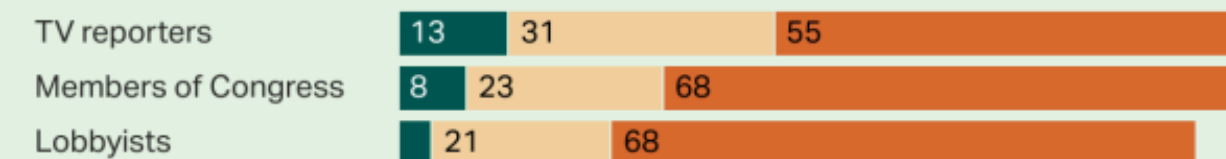
Net positive



Net negative



Majority negative



Professions are listed in order of net % high (% high/very high minus % low/very low).
% No opinion is not shown.

Dec. 2-18, 2024

GALLUP



FOUR SOURCES THAT MAKE UP THE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONALISM IN FLORIDA

Supreme Court of Florida
SC2023-0884

Professionalism
Expectations

Oath of Admission
to The Florida Bar

The Florida Bar
Creed of
Professionalism
Rules Regulating
The Florida Bar



TEN HOT TIPS

1

Have a Professional Mindset

2

Do Not Be a Bully

3

Do Not Disparage

4

Be Respectful and Respectfully Disagree

5

Be Honest, Act Morally, Practice

Empathy, Have Pride, Value Community



TEN HOT TIPS

- 6 Use Candor and Decorum
- 7 Research Local Rules
- 8 Meet Deadlines and Be Responsive
- 9 Pleadings Must Be Professional
- 10 DO NOT USE ALL CAPS!

#ProTipTuesday



Great Public Harm – And Social Media

Judge David Langham

DIGITAL PROFESSIONALISM

The Florida Bar filed a Petition for Emergency Suspension recently in a case styled **The Florida Bar v. Ashley Ann Krapacs**. The Petition provides an illustration of some of the perils of social media. In it, there are thoughts about freedom of expression, as well as the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. It is an interesting read. As an aside, I recently read a string on LinkedIn in which some seasoned attorneys were cautioning new attorneys about correspondence and email. Their theme was essentially to forgo quick responses, to allow moods to cool, and to respond without emotion. I agreed with their

Florida's Professionalism Standards apply to all forms of communication, including online communication, and to both in-person and remote (video or audio) interactions with others.



Regulating Professionalism

01

Attorney
Consumer
Assistance
Program
(ACAP)

02

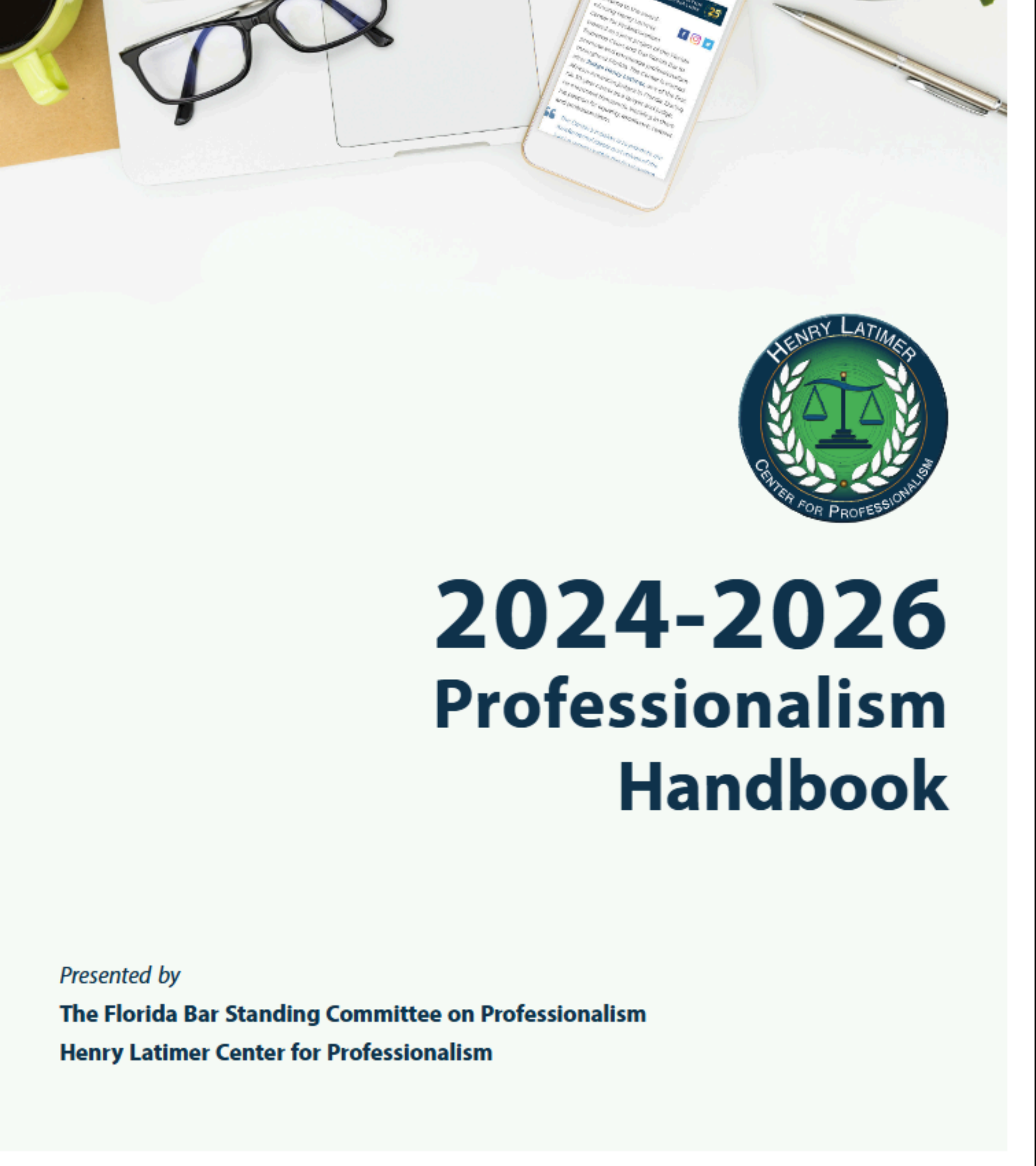
Disciplinary
System
(Case Law,
Rules, and
SC 2023-
0884)

03

Local
Professionalism
Panels
(LPPs)




Professionalism is Expected!



2024-2026 Professionalism Handbook

Presented by
The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism
Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism

FREE CLE LIBRARY




HENRY LATIMER
Center for Professionalism


The Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee Presents

ROOTS TO RESULTS: GROWING THROUGH MENTORSHIP


April 10, 2026, Noon until 1 PM
[Zoom Webinar:](#)




Nancy Benavides
Associate Dean
Florida State University




Tarlika Nunez-Navarro
Dean, St. Thomas University
College of Law



Hon. Jackie Powell
County Court Judge
17th Judicial Circuit




Javier Ley-Soto
General Counsel
Miami Dade College




HENRY LATIMER
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONALISM

ATTEMPTED INTELLIGENCE


ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS SURROUNDING THE USE OF AI



MODERATOR: JOSEPH GORSMEIER, ESQ.
(SEABC VICE CHAIR)



ARTI HIRANI (YLD PRESIDENT-ELECT)



JONATHAN GRABB
(DIR. OF ETHICS & ADVERTISING, TFB)

PRESENTED BY THE STUDENT EDUCATION AND
ADMISSION TO THE BAR COMMITTEE (SEABC)

NOVEMBER 7 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
[Zoom Webinar](#) | FREE CLE

The Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism and the Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee Present

Civility: The Lawyer's Duty to the Profession, the Courts, and Each Other



Tia Gibbs, Moderator
Georgia State University
College of Law



Joe Ankus
FIU Law



Shari N. Warner, JD, LMFT
Shari Warner Consulting



Steve Maxwell
Stetson University College
of Law

“Civility is not a relic of a bygone era – it is a foundational professional skill that strengthens advocacy, enhances credibility, and preserves the integrity of the legal system.”

**Friday, May 1
Noon - 1 pm**

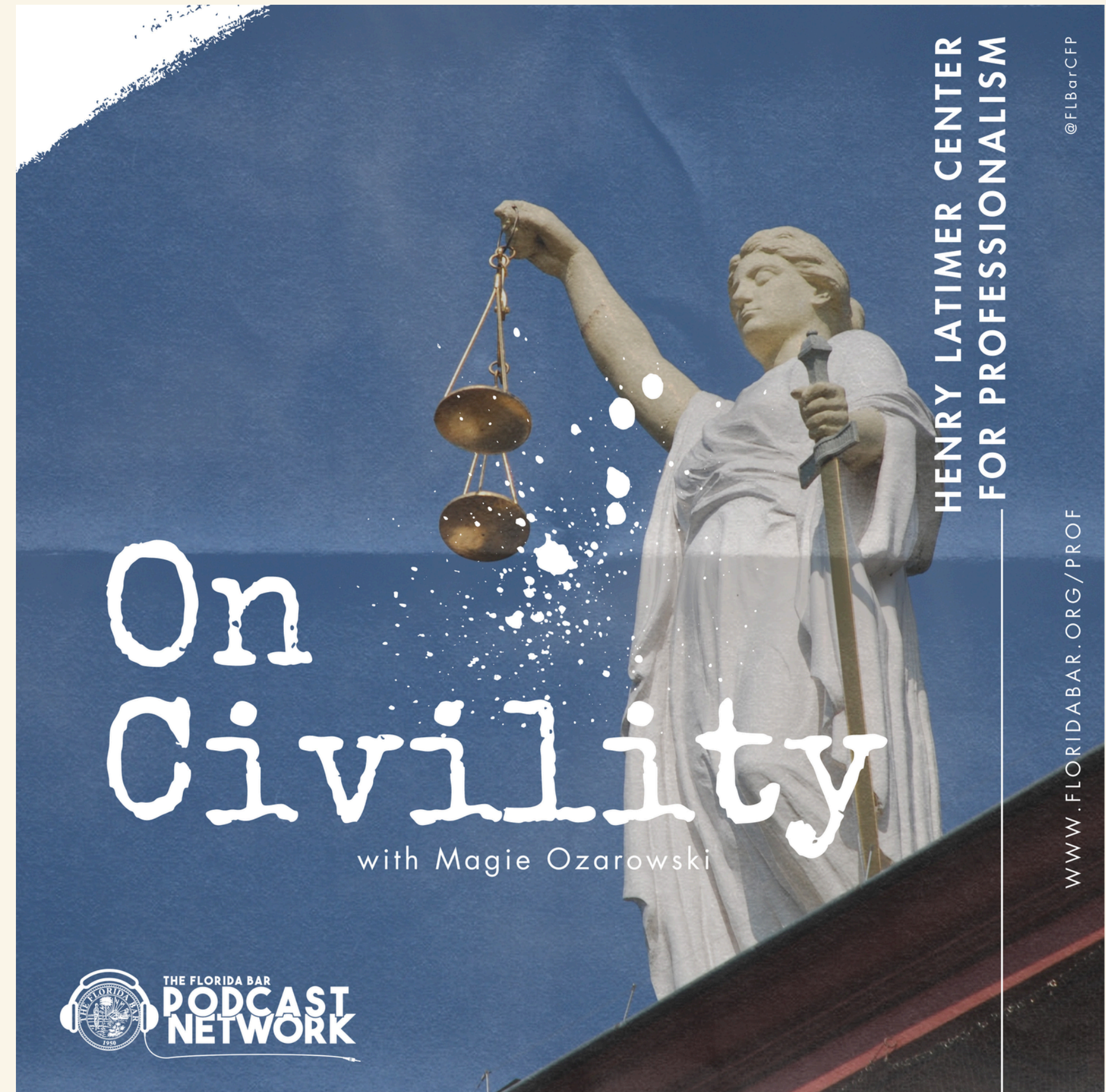
ZOOM WEBINAR



More information can be seen at [www.floridabar.org/prof](#)

The Florida Bar's
Henry Latimer Center for
Professionalism
presents

Never Contemplated



On Civility

with Magie Ozarowski



HENRY LATIMER CENTER
FOR PROFESSIONALISM

WWW.FLORIDABAR.ORG/PROF

@FLBarCFP

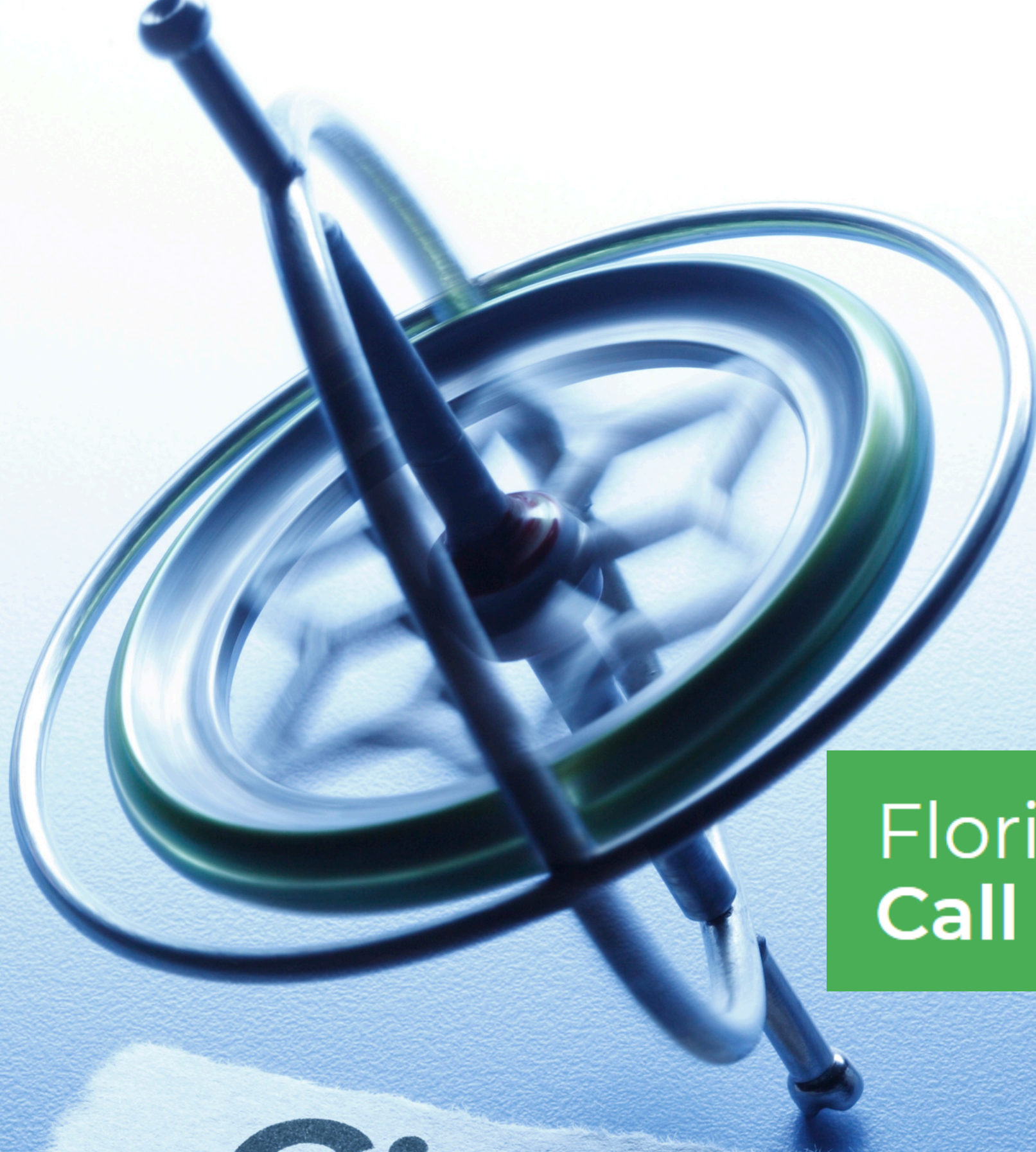
The
Lawyer/Leader
Podcast



Hosted by Class XII



THE PODCASTING BAR
**PODCAST
NETWORK**



Florida Lawyers Helpline
Call 833-FLI-WELL

Civility



**Rosalyn Sia
Baker-Barnes**

President of The Florida Bar

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH UNPROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR?



Join at mentimeter.com | use code **6707 8398**

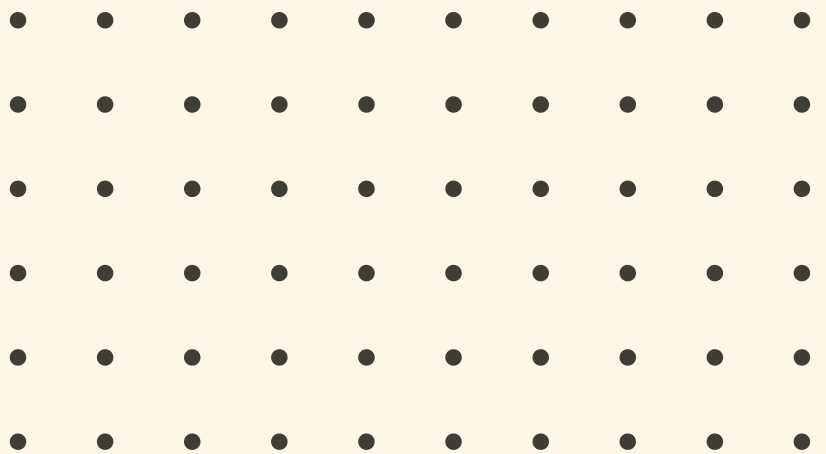
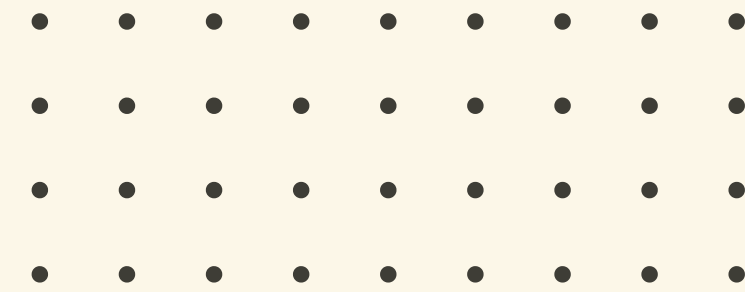
 Mentimeter

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH UNPROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR?

→ End presentation



What do you want people
to say about working with
you?



PROFESSIONAL

PREPARED

RESPECTFUL

CALM UNDER PRESSURE

TRUSTED