

New York State Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law  
April 1, 2019

**CONVOCATION**  
**NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE**  
**84 N. BROADWAY, WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK**

From Law School to Practice:  
Instilling Skills, Competencies and Professional Values  
*A Dialogue with the Academy, Bench and Bar*

**REGISTRATION** Lobby

**9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** Lecture Hall

**9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

**Paul C. Saunders, Esq.**

*Chair, Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law  
Retired Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP*

**Michael Miller, Esq.**

*President, New York State Bar Association  
Law Office of Michael Miller*

**Hon. Juanita Bing Newton**

*Dean, New York State Judicial Institute*

**OPENING REMARKS**

**9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Hon. Janet DiFiore**

*Chief Judge of the State of New York*

**EDUCATING NEW YORK'S LAWYERS**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**AN OVERVIEW OF NEW YORK'S BAR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

**A Framework for Law Schools to Certify Students Graduate with  
Skills, Competencies and Professional Values Essential to Practice Law**

New York Court of Appeals Rule 520.18 & ABA Standard 302

**John H. Gross, Esq.**

*Ingerman Smith LLP  
Member, Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law*

**Hon. Jenny Rivera**

*Senior Associate Judge, New York Court of Appeals  
Member, Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law*

**FOUNDATIONS FOR PRACTICE: EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LAWYERS**  
**Presentation on What Skills, Competencies and Professional Values**  
**Practicing Lawyers Deem Essential – Perspectives from Around the Nation and New York**

**Zachariah DeMeola, Esq.**

*Manager, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS)*

**PLENARY SESSION I:**

**11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**FROM THE CLASSROOM TO PRACTICE:**

**Defining and Instilling Professional Values, Lawyering Skills and Cultural Competencies**

*Moderator:*

**Christopher E. Chang, Esq.**

*Law Offices of Christopher E. Chang*

*Member, Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law*

*Panelists:*

**Katherine E. Brisson**

*Syracuse University College of Law*

*J.D. Candidate, May 2020*

**Monica A. Duffy, Esq.**

*Chief Attorney, Attorney Grievance Committee*

*New York State Appellate Division, Third Department*

**Hon. Randall T. Eng**

*Of Counsel, Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.*

*Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department (Ret.)*

*Member, Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law*

**Associate Dean Leah A. Hill**

*Associate Dean for Experiential Education & Clinical Associate Professor*

*Fordham University School of Law*

**Susan J. Kraham, Esq.**

*Director of Externships and Field-Based Learning*

*Columbia Law School*

**LUNCH** *Omni Room / 3rd Floor*

**12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**LUNCHEON DISCUSSION**

**1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

**DEFINING A PROFESSION-READY LAW GRADUATE:**

**A Conversation About Law School Education and the Expectations of the Practicing Bar**

**Dean Craig M. Boise**

*Dean and Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law*

*Member, Judicial Institute Professionalism in the Law*

**Julie A. North, Esq.**

*Litigation Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP*

**PLENARY SESSION II** *Lecture Hall*

**2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

**Professional Values, Lawyering Skills and Cultural Competencies in Practice**

**INTRODUCTION OF PLENARY SESSION II: A DEAN'S PERSPECTIVE**

**Dean Matthew Diller**

*Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law  
Member, Judicial Institute Professionalism in the Law*

**PLENARY PANEL II DISCUSSION**

*Moderator:*

**James M. Wicks, Esq.**

*Farrell Fritz, P.C.*

*Member, Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law*

*Panelists:*

**Cynthia Domingo-Foraste, Esq.**

*Executive Director, Court Square Law Project*

**Hon. Angela G. Iannacci**

*Associate Justice, New York State Appellate Division, Second Department*

**Scott M. Karson, Esq.**

*Lamb and Barnosky, LLP*

**Steven Leventhal, Esq.**

*Leventhal, Mullaney & Blinkoff, LLP*

**Ricja Rice-Ghyll, Esq.**

*Hearing Officer, New York State Department of Health*

*President, Capital District Women's Bar Association*

**Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman**

*Presiding Justice, New York State Appellate Division, Second Department*

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Hon. Jenny Rivera**

**Paul C. Saunders, Esq.**

This program has been approved by the New York State Judicial Institute in accordance with the requirements of the New York State CLE Board for a maximum of 4.5 credit hours in the category of Professional Practice CLE credit.

# New York State Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law

## **PROFESSIONAL VALUES IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION**

### **Institutional Values**

Because law is a profession, institutional values must insure its integrity, honor and independence. Because it is a profession, there must be a common acceptance of its core mission: the provision of competent, candid, independent legal advice to clients. Those in the legal profession share a belief that lawyers must set aside their own interests and seek to maximize those of their clients, within the permissible bounds of the law. Doing so permits zealous advocacy of our clients' causes and requires strict confidentiality save for the most extreme and exigent cases that threaten the system of justice. Institutional values must also seek to preserve and strengthen the rule of law and the system of justice. Lawyers who are selected to become members of the judiciary have a heightened obligation to perform their work with rigorous independence, honesty, fairness and strict adherence to the rule of law. As members of a learned profession, lawyers have the obligation to remain abreast of changes in the law, enabling the provision of competent legal advice. When supervising other lawyers, a lawyer must insure that they are aware of and comply with applicable codes of conduct.

### **Client-Related Values**

Providing legal advice and services is at the core of the legal profession. When lawyers do so, they are in effect delivering the rule of law and thereby performing a public service. They must do so competently and with candor and independence. Preserving confidentiality is not only an obligation, it is essential for the proper functioning of the system of justice. The so-called principle of partisanship requires that lawyers put their clients' interests ahead of their own in all but the most extraordinary cases and requires that lawyers must always be available for their clients. Clients must be fully informed about their matters and because lawyers may be fiduciaries for their clients, their property must be scrupulously segregated and preserved. The principle of partisanship also means that lawyers must assiduously avoid conflicts of interest that might jeopardize their ability to provide candid and independent legal advice.

### **Personal Values**

Lawyers must behave with personal integrity and in their relations with courts, clients and adversaries they must be scrupulously honest. Being honest in those relationships does not mean betraying client confidences or interests but it does prohibit prevarication. Because lawyers are common members of a shared honorable profession, they must treat each other courteously and with respect. "Zealous advocacy" does not countenance deception or disrespect.

### **Lawyers as Members of a Larger Community**

As members of a profession whose hallmark is the delivery of the rule of law to their clients and who thereby provide a public service, lawyers also have a responsibility, from their unique perspective, to become active and productive members of their community. They should support and promote the rule of law, provide or contribute to the provision of free legal services to those who cannot afford them, participate in government whenever appropriate and speak out against injustice whenever it is perceived.