

Principles for the Independence of the Legal Profession

THE PREAMBLE

The objectives of the Principles for the Independence of the Legal Profession are to ensure the preservation of a robust and independent bar; to ensure that all lawyers are able to carry out their duties ethically and in compliance with the rules of professional conduct; to protect and serve the effective functioning of the independent judiciary; to promote the availability of competent counsel for all parties, without regard to interest, ideology, popular support, or government disfavor; to defend the bedrock right to counsel and all the protections of the Bill of Rights; and to support the maintenance of the rule of law for all those subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Legal organizations, large and small, are urged to support and observe these Principles.

THE PRINCIPLES

As a legal organization that endorses the Principles for the Independence of the Legal Profession, we shall strive to apply these Principles with good faith and integrity. We intend to develop and implement policies, procedures, training, and internal reporting structures to ensure commitment to these Principles throughout our organization. We believe the application of these Principles will help to preserve a system of governance under the rule of law – a system in which everyone is governed by publicly available rules that are known in advance, applied equally in all cases according to their terms, and binding on both private actors, entities and the government.

Accordingly, we acknowledge our role as attorneys to:

- Defend our constitutional right to be free from government coercion or retaliation for activities that are protected by the First Amendment, including representing clients, donating to causes of concern, and expressing beliefs regarding the value of equal opportunity. This principle covers individual lawyers as well as the organizations with which they are associated.
- Respect the Rules of Professional Conduct binding upon us as members of the legal profession, representatives of clients, and officers of the legal system – including our duty, when necessary, to challenge official actions.
- Uphold our duty as members of the legal profession to provide legal services to those unable to pay, by providing legal services directly, or to organizations that are designed primarily to address the needs of people of limited means. Protecting the rule of law is also an essential task required of all members of the bar and must be safe from any interference by the government or any other organization. The duty to provide equal access to justice is a paramount obligation of all members of the legal profession.
- Undertake our duties as attorneys, in accordance with our oath, mindful of the importance of honest counsel in ensuring access to justice to all who seek our counsel and in maintaining public confidence in the actual and perceived integrity of the legal process.

- Encourage the application of these Principles by all those we represent be they individuals, businesses, or federal and state governments.
- Refuse to accept any representation where a condition of such representation would violate any of the foregoing.

Signed,

- ◊ Judge Gerard J. Alonzo -- Formerly of the Livingston County Court in the Seventh Judicial District of New York
- ◊ Judge Wayne Andersen – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- ◊ Judge John Bissell – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
- ◊ Judge Robert J. Cindrich – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- ◊ Judge Jack H. Cook – Formerly of the 15th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
- ◊ Judge Gail M. Cookson – Former Administrative Law Judge for the State of New Jersey
- ◊ Judge Georgia M. Curio – Formerly of the New Jersey Superior Court
- ◊ Judge Andre M. Davis – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland & the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- ◊ Justice Mary McGowan Davis – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Justice Carolyn Demarest – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Judge William Downes – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming
- ◊ Judge Allyson K. Duncan – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- ◊ Judge Eugene M. Fahey – Formerly of the New York Court of Appeals
- ◊ Judge Gary Feess – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- ◊ Justice Helen Freedman – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Justice Marcy Friedman – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Judge Royal Furgeson, Jr. – Formerly of the U.S. District Courts for the Western & Northern Districts of Texas
- ◊ Judge Vanessa Gilmore – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- ◊ Justice Judith Gische – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Justice Richard Goldenhersch – Formerly of the Illinois Appellate Court, Fifth District
- ◊ Judge Irma Gonzalez – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California
- ◊ Justice Emily J. Goodman – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Judge Paul W. Grimm – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
- ◊ Judge Anne Harper – Formerly of the King County District Court, Washington

- ◊ Judge Thelton Henderson, Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- ◊ Chief Judge Robert Henry – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- ◊ Judge Richard J. Holwell – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- ◊ Judge Ellen Huvelle – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- ◊ Judge Gary M. Israel – Former Administrative Law Judge-In-Charge, Industrial Commission of Arizona
- ◊ Chief Judge John Jones III – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- ◊ Justice Marcy L. Kahn – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Judge Abdul K. Kallon – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama
- ◊ Judge Robert B. Kugler – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey & the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
- ◊ Judge Michael S. Kupersmith – Formerly of the Vermont Superior Court
- ◊ Judge Louise LaMothe – Former Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- ◊ Judge Timothy Lewis – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit & The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- ◊ Justice Joan B. Lobis – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Judge James Loprest – U.S. Immigration Court
- ◊ Judge John Markson – Formerly of the Dane County Circuit Court, Wisconsin
- ◊ Judge Beverly Martin – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- ◊ Judge John S. Martin – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- ◊ Judge A. Howard Matz – Formerly of the U.S. Circuit Court for the Central District of California
- ◊ Judge Arthur McFarland – Formerly of the Municipal Court for the City of Charleston, South Carolina
- ◊ Chief Judge Paul Michel – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- ◊ Judge Margaret M. Morrow – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- ◊ Justice Karla Moskowitz – Formerly of the New York Supreme Court
- ◊ Presiding Judge Michael C. Nelson – Formerly of the Apache County Superior Court, Arizona
- ◊ Judge Richard Niess – Formerly of the Dane County Circuit Court, Wisconsin

- ◊ Judge Liam O'Grady – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia & the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
- ◊ Judge Kathleen O'Malley – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit & the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- ◊ Judge Philip M. Pro – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada
- ◊ Anonymous Former Michigan Judge
- ◊ Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald – Formerly of the Hawaii Supreme Court
- ◊ Judge Shira Scheindlin – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- ◊ Judge M. John Schubert – Formerly of the Orange District Court, Franklin County, Massachusetts
- ◊ Judge Elisabeth Sichel – Formerly of the Superior Court of Riverside County, California
- ◊ Judge Lawrence F. Stengel – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- ◊ Chief Justice Laura Denvir Stith – Formerly of the Missouri Supreme Court
- ◊ Justice Mary Thomas Sullivan – Formerly of the Massachusetts Appeals Court
- ◊ Judge David S. Tatel – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
- ◊ Judge Samuel H. Teller – Formerly of the Tolland District Superior Court, Connecticut
- ◊ Judge John Daniel Tinder – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit & the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
- ◊ Judge Daniel Turbow – Formerly of the New York Family Court
- ◊ Judge Ursula M. Ungaro – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- ◊ Judge Thomas Vanaskie – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit & the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- ◊ Judge T. John Ward – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- ◊ Judge Paul Watford – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- ◊ Judge Lee Yeakel – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- ◊ Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland