

The following canons were therefore approved by the Canadian Bar Association, at the Fifth Annual Meeting, Ottawa, September 2nd, 1920, as a correct, though not exhaustive, statement of some of the ethical principles which should be observed by the members of the legal profession.

As the committee properly say, it is not possible to frame a set of rules which will particularize all the duties of the lawyer in all the varied relations of his professional life and no attempt has been made to do so. The following Canons of Ethics should therefore be construed as a general guide and not as a denial of the existence of other duties equally imperative though not specifically mentioned. The lawyer is more than a mere citizen. He is a minister of justice, an officer of the Courts, his client's advocate, and a member of an ancient, honourable and learned profession. It is therefore in these several capacities his duty to promote the interests of the State, serve the cause of justice, maintain the authority and dignity of the Courts, be faithful to his clients, candid and courteous in his intercourse with his fellows and true to himself.

The canons indicate the duties of a barrister to be as follows:-

1. TO THE STATE.

(1) He owes a duty to the State, to maintain its integrity and its law and not to aid, counsel, or assist any man to act in any way contrary to those laws.

(2) When engaged as a public prosecutor his primary duty is not to convict but to see that justice is done; to that end he should withhold no facts tending to prove either the guilt or innocence of the accused.

(3) He should take upon himself without hesitation and if need be without fee or reward, the cause of any man assigned to him by the Court and exert his best efforts on behalf of the person for whom he has been so assigned counsel.

(4) It is a crime against the State and therefore highly non-professional in a lawyer, to stir up strife or litigation by seeking out defects in titles, claims for personal injury or other causes of action for the purpose of securing or endeavouring to secure a