

to respectability and secures his business secretively and furtively through the means of runners and hirelings. That shyster, by means of his apparent decency, is able to deceive and dupe the people, juries, and courts, where the common, open shyster would fail. Every community is infested with the shyster in all its forms and kinds, and every community has been infested with it since the beginning of the profession.

It is an easy matter for a young lawyer, who starts out in the pursuit of the law as a practice rather than a profession, who has always in mind fees and money as a first consideration, to slip into bad practices and little by little develop into a genuine shyster.

The shyster is indeed with us in large numbers. In this day of corporations and large moneyed interests, he is perhaps more numerous and prosperous than in any previous period of the history of our profession. He certainly tends more largely than all other things to disgrace and deprave the profession of law. He is far more harmful to the profession itself than to the community in which he practices. He should be eliminated from the profession and banished from the bar. That cannot be accomplished until public opinion condemns him; and the public will never condemn him until the bar itself does so. The lawyers can never mould public opinion against the shyster until they first get together themselves on the subject. It is a distressing fact that there are many lawyers of fairly good standing who are unfamiliar with professional ethics, and quite a number who care little about observing those ethics after making their acquaintance. The lawyer must first organize, and then as a body make open war on the shyster as a public enemy.

The fight is a hard one at best with the lawyers organized and united, because every attack on the ambulance chaser in legislative halls, the courts, and before the people is met by the shyster with the very plausible defence that the attack is made in the interest of railroads and corporations, to prevent the common people from obtaining their just deserts.

Lawyers owe two duties to the profession and the public: