



# THE NORTH CAROLINA CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

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## WHAT IS PROFESSIONALISM?

Professionalism is the conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person; the skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well.

Professionalism consists of certain attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors sometimes known collectively as "virtue" or "good character." Attitudes and behaviors have two things in common. First, both are produced by our beliefs. Second, we have the power to choose our attitudes and behaviors.

## WHO WE ARE

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (CJCP) is composed of members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina representing its four constituencies: appellate and trial judges, law faculty, practicing lawyers and the public.

It is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina or his / her designee. The CJCP is administered by a full-time executive director.

CJCP's mission is to foster professionalism within the North Carolina legal community through creation, organization, and participation in a wide variety of activities and programs designed to fulfill its charge: to enhance professionalism among North Carolina lawyers, judges, and law students. It accomplishes this by supporting and engaging in activities throughout North Carolina and the United States that promote appropriate professional behavior required by all North Carolina lawyers in the Rules of Professional Conduct, respect for others, and a commitment to the values underpinning the rule of law and administration of justice.

## WHO WE SERVE

The CJCP provides programming and support for all North Carolina lawyers, judges, and law students.

“

Legal ethics is the minimum standard *required* by the North Carolina State Bar (Rules of Professional Conduct); whereas, professionalism is the higher standard *expected* of all lawyers and judges.”

— Melvin F. Wright, Jr.  
CJCP Executive Director



# THE NORTH CAROLINA CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

ENHANCING PROFESSIONALISM AMONG  
NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS, JUDGES, AND LAW STUDENTS

## WHAT WE DO

### ► ***Presentations and Programs***

Provide CLE programs and presentations, training for judges and lawyers, law school professionalism programs and presentations, and Judicial District Bar Professionalism programs throughout the state for local Bar members.

### ► ***Conferences & Service***

Represent the CJCP at state and national professionalism-related committees, programs, and conferences.

### ► ***Publications***

Contribute print, video, and audio materials for publication through various venues, addressing professionalism issues, trends, history, and initiatives.

### ► ***Policy Recommendations***

Recommend, endorse, and lobby for measures designed to strengthen State Bar CLE professionalism requirements and for policies impacting North Carolina lawyers' quality of life and professionalism in practice.

### ► ***Grants & Sponsorships***

Sponsor professionalism-related events and provide financial assistance to entities and organizations in support of activities promoting professionalism.

### ► ***Profiles in Professionalism and the Historical Video Series***

Interviews of North Carolina lawyers and jurists maintained as an oral history project and professionalism outreach.

### ► ***Chief Justice's Professionalism Award***

Annual award given by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina to outstanding North Carolina lawyers, judges, citizens, or programs that exhibit the principles of professionalism throughout their careers.

### ► ***Professionalism Support Initiative (PSI)***

A confidential peer intervention program for North Carolina lawyers and judges to address conduct that does not conform to norms of professionalism required by the North Carolina legal community but otherwise does not constitute a

violation of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct.

### ► ***Mentoring***

Provide advice and program support in assisting local Bars as they implement and address mentoring issues and initiatives for its members.

### ► ***Judicial Response Committee***

A committee of highly respected former North Carolina jurists which responds to unwarranted attacks against North Carolina judges in the media.

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## THE NORTH CAROLINA CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

**Chief Justice Paul Newby**  
*Commission Chair*

**Melvin F. Wright, Jr.**  
*Executive Director*

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