

2020 Recent Developments By the Judiciary CLE By The Hour

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Professionalism

Hon. Frances Pitman
Second Circuit Court of Appeal

Hon. Jeff Cox
Second Circuit Court of Appeal

PROFESSIONALISM DURING A PANDEMIC

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS BY THE JUDICIARY

CLE BY THE HOUR

December 17, 2020

Presented by

**Judge Frances Jones Pitman
Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal**

**Judge Jeff Cox
Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal**

Introduction

A. Professionalism is required in the practice of law, but how do you define it?

Many define it as having good character and competence.
Competence is something that can be achieved by hard work.
Character is something else.
Traits commonly thought of that define good character are:

- 1) Trustworthiness
- 2) Respect
- 3) Responsibility
- 4) Fairness
- 5) Caring
- 6) Citizenship

As the famous basketball coach John Wooden once said, “Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because character is what you really are, while reputation is merely what others think you are.”
But think about it this way, your reputation flows from your character.
Good character makes a good reputation.
Professionalism includes both competence and character.

Today we are going to discuss how our court functions while protecting

- 1) Our employees;
- 2) Our consumers;
- 3) Our and your work product; and
- 4) Everyone’s health.

Remember that all Rules of Professional Conduct are important, but these are especially important at this time:

- 1) 1.1 Competence
- 2) 1.3 Diligence
- 3) 1.4 Communication
- 4) 3.1 Meritorious Claims and Contentions
- 5) 3.2 Expediting Litigation
- 6) 3.3 Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel

B. Our goal as a court of appeal is to continue to provide services to our consumers efficiently and effectively. Here are some of the ways we are doing this:

[Discussion by panel]

C. Another goal is to ensure we have communication among the judges, our court employees and the public:

[Discussion by panel]

D. We educate ourselves about rules promulgated by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

[Discussion by panel]

E. Our court acts on writ applications and appeals as quickly as possible.

[Discussion by panel]

F. Our court uses technology to make it function efficiently.

[Discussion by panel]

G. We are always open to new ideas to better serve the courts in the Second Circuit.

[Discussion by panel]