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A LAWYER'S DUTY

A lawyer's first duty is to see that clients are given the benefit of all legal rights they enjoy in connection with their problem. A lawyer is sworn to conduct cases and matters in an orderly manner so that they may be decided upon their merits. A lawyer may not make any agreements or incur any obligations which might jeopardize a client or client's interests.

A lawyer's whole career depends upon unswerving loyalty to clients. A lawyer may, however, see weaknesses in a particular case and may know that a court fight will be both expensive and probably futile for a client. In such a case, a lawyer may advise the client to bargain or, with the client's permission, may bargain for the client. It has, with truth, been said that a settlement, even though for an amount less than claimed, may be far better than an expensive, lengthy lawsuit, the result of which is uncertain. Lawyers recognize this and pursue conciliation and settlement whenever possible and advisable.

A LAWYER'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES OF EVIDENCE

Trials are conducted under rules of evidence, which have been developed over the centuries to produce fair trials. Witnesses often attempt to make statements regarding facts of which they do not have personal knowledge. Such testimony is called hearsay evidence. If it is allowed to become a part of the record of the trial, the result might be injustice. Rules of evidence, therefore, prohibit a witness from telling what someone else, who is not present in the Court, told him. There are many other similar rules of evidence designed to produce a fair result. A lawyer protects the client by seeing, in Court, that the rules of evidence are followed and enforced.