

INTRODUCTION²

The effective administration of justice requires the interaction of many professionals and disciplines, but none is more critical than the role of the lawyer. In fulfilling that role, a lawyer performs many tasks, few of which are easy, most of which are exacting. In the final analysis, a lawyer's duty is always to the client. In striving to fulfill that duty, a lawyer always must be conscious of his or her broader duty to the judicial system that serves both attorney and client. To the judiciary, a lawyer owes candor, diligence, and utmost respect. To the administration of justice, a lawyer unquestionably owes the fundamental duties of personal dignity and professional integrity. Coupled with those duties is a lawyer's duty of courtesy and cooperation with fellow professionals for the efficient administration of our system of justice and the respect of the public it serves. In furtherance of these fundamental concepts, the lawyers should familiarize themselves with the current "*Guidelines for Professional Conduct by the Trial Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar*" (adopted by the Conferences of Circuit and County Court Judges), that can be found on the Court's website. It is recognized that these Guidelines must be applied in keeping with the advocacy of the interests of one's client and the long tradition of professionalism among and between members of the Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar. These Guidelines are subject to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct, and the specific requirements of any standing or administrative order, local court rule, or order entered in a specific case. The lawyers should also familiarize themselves with the "*2019-2021 Professionalism Handbook*" by the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism that can be found on the Court's website.

These policies and procedures have been revised in response to various legal developments since I was assigned to Division CV-E on January 1, 2020, including, but not limited to, the greater use of communication technology to participate in remote court proceedings, the amendments to Rule 1.510, various Florida Supreme Court Administrative Orders reemphasizing the trial court's responsibility to actively case manage, and the anticipation of significant amendments to the Florida Rules of Court that will likely increase demands on trial court resources already stretched thin with duty obligations and hearing and jury trial responsibilities. These divisional policies and procedures are intended to streamline litigation, reduce the need for hearing



time, avoid the unnecessary stress that arises during final trial preparations, and reduce the number of trial cases continued.

Judge Bruce Anderson

² *In part from the 2019 “Guidelines for Professional Conduct by the Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar.”*

