

## California Lawyers Face Potential Discipline for Incivility under Proposed State Bar Measure



To uphold higher standards of professional conduct, the State Bar of California's board of trustees has recently approved a groundbreaking proposal that could subject lawyers to disciplinary actions for acts of incivility. The measure, which aims to instill a culture of respect and integrity within the legal community, has been forwarded to the California Supreme Court for final approval, as reported in a press release on July 21.

Presently, new lawyers in California have been required to take a civility oath as part of their admission process since 2014. However, those admitted before that year were not bound by such a requirement. The existing civility oath emphasizes the commitment to maintain dignity, courtesy, and integrity as officers of the court.

Under the proposed bar measure, all lawyers, regardless of their year of admission, will be required to reaffirm the civility oath on an annual basis. This move seeks to ensure that ethical conduct remains an ongoing priority throughout a lawyer's career.

**See also: [California Bar Adopts "Snitch" Rule in Response to Ethics Scandals](#)**

Crucially, the proposed amendments to the California Rules of Professional Conduct outline the circumstances under which lawyers could face disciplinary actions for their behavior. The amendments specifically target "significantly unprofessional conduct that is abusive or harassing," leaving no room for ambiguity when it comes to addressing incivility issues.

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Moreover, the proposed changes emphasize that lawyers should not feel pressured to adopt offensive tactics when dealing with opposing counsel, ensuring that the duty to clients is not compromised while upholding professional decorum. This provision seeks to encourage constructive dialogue and effective legal representation without resorting to harmful or antagonistic practices.

The potential implementation of this far-reaching measure has garnered attention from legal media outlets, with Law360 and Law.com providing in-depth coverage on its potential impact within the legal profession.

Should the California Supreme Court grant approval for the proposed bar measure, it could mark a significant step towards fostering a more respectful and collegial environment among legal practitioners in the state. By holding lawyers accountable for their actions and words, the legal community seeks to reinforce public trust in the integrity and professionalism of its members.

As the legal landscape evolves to address contemporary challenges, California leads the way in demonstrating its commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards and promoting civility within the legal sphere. Legal professionals and observers alike are keenly watching for the court's decision, as it could herald a new era of legal ethics and conduct in the state of California.

**Don't be a silent ninja! Let us know your thoughts in the comment section below.**