

THE TWELVE TRAITS OF CIVILITY

IN ORDER TO BE CIVIL A LAWYER MUST BE:

1. **RESPECTFUL** -- OF YOURSELF, THE COURT, YOUR CLIENT, OTHER ATTORNEYS AND THE RULES AND TRADITIONS OF THE LAW. SEE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, 3.3.

2. **FAIR, JUST AND HONEST.** SEE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, 3.4.

3. **FRIENDLY** -- AMIABLE AND GENIAL.

4. **FORGIVING** -- NOT "I GOT YOU" BUT PARDONING AN OFFENSE RATHER THAN TAKING OFFENSE.

5. **PATIENT** -- CALM, UNCOMPLAINING AND NOT HOSTILE.

6. **KIND** -- HUMANE, GENTLE AND CONSIDERATE.

7. **HELPFUL** -- SUPPORTIVE, MENTORING.

8. **COURTEOUS** -- HAVING GOOD MANNERS (IS THIS REALLY AN ARCHAIC CONCEPT?)

9. **MODEST** -- NOT ARROGANT, MODERATE AND POSSESSING HUMILITY.

10. **OF GOOD HEALTH** -- IT'S HARD TO BE CIVIL WHEN YOU HURT IN MIND OR BODY.

11. **PUNCTUAL** -- ON TIME. SEE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, 1.3, 1.4.

12. **JOYFUL** -- IN THE SENSE OF THE FRENCH IDIOM, JOI DE VIVRE -- HAVING AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK ON LIFE AND ENJOYING YOUR LIFE AS AN ATTORNEY.



Handelman

"I didn't realize, Your Honor. I assumed the law here was the same as in New Jersey. As you may know, dog eat dog is permissible there."