

**§ 776.37**

those of a client currently represented by the covered attorney.

(3) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with a judge who is presiding or who is likely to preside over any proceeding in which the covered attorney will appear in a representative capacity.

(4) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with other persons involved in the particular case, judicial or administrative proceeding, or other matter for which representation has been established, including but not limited to witnesses, victims, co-accuseds, and court-martial or board members.

(5) For purposes of this Rule, "sexual relations" means:

(i) Sexual intercourse; or

(ii) Any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person or causing such person to touch the sexual or other intimate parts of the covered attorney for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of either party.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 776.37 Advisor.**

(a) *Advisor.* In representing a client, a covered attorney shall exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice. In rendering advice, a covered attorney should refer not only to law but to other considerations such as moral, economic, social, and political factors that may be relevant to the client's situation.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 776.38 Mediation.**

(a) *Mediation:*

(1) A covered attorney may act as a mediator between individuals if:

(i) The covered attorney consults with each individual concerning the implications of the mediation, including the advantages and risks involved, and the effect on the attorney-client confidentiality, and obtains each individual's consent to the mediation;

(ii) The covered attorney reasonably believes that the matter can be resolved on terms compatible with each individual's best interests, that each individual will be able to make adequately informed decisions in the matter, and that there is little risk of ma-

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terial prejudice to the interests of any of the individuals if the contemplated resolution is unsuccessful; and,

(iii) The covered attorney reasonably believes that the mediation can be undertaken impartially and without improper effect on other responsibilities the covered attorney has to any of the individuals.

(2) While acting as a mediator, the covered attorney shall consult with each individual concerning the decisions to be made and the considerations relevant in making them, so that each individual can make adequately informed decisions.

(3) A covered attorney shall withdraw as a mediator if any of the individuals so requests, or if any of the conditions stated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section is no longer satisfied. Upon withdrawal, the covered attorney shall not represent any of the individuals in the matter that was the subject of the mediation unless each individual consents.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 776.39 Evaluation for use by third persons.**

(a) *Evaluation for use by third persons:*

(1) A covered attorney may undertake an evaluation of a matter affecting a client for the use of someone other than the client if:

(i) The covered attorney reasonably believes that making the evaluation is compatible with other aspects of the covered attorney's relationship with the client, and,

(ii) The client consents after consultation.

(2) Except as disclosure is required in connection with a report of an evaluation, information relating to the evaluation is otherwise protected by § 776.25 of this part.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 776.40 Meritorious claims and contentions.**

(a) *Meritorious claims and contentions.* A covered attorney shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless there is a basis for doing so that is not frivolous, which includes a good faith argument for an extension, modification, or

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reversal of existing law. A covered attorney representing an accused in a criminal proceeding or the respondent in an administrative proceeding that could result in incarceration, discharge from the Naval service, or other adverse personnel action, may nevertheless defend the client at the proceeding as to require that every element of the case is established.

(b) [Reserved]

### § 776.41 Expediting litigation.

(a) *Expediting litigation.* A covered attorney shall make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation or other proceedings consistent with the interests of the client and the attorney's responsibilities to tribunals.

(b) [Reserved]

### § 776.42 Candor and obligations toward the tribunal.

(a) *Candor and obligations toward the tribunal:*

(1) A covered attorney shall not knowingly:

(i) Make a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal;

(ii) Fail to disclose a material fact to a tribunal when disclosure is necessary to avoid assisting a criminal or fraudulent act by the client;

(iii) Fail to disclose to the tribunal legal authority in the controlling jurisdiction known to the covered attorney to be directly adverse to the position of the client and not disclosed by opposing counsel;

(iv) Offer evidence that the covered attorney knows to be false. If a covered attorney has offered material evidence and comes to know of its falsity, the covered attorney shall take reasonable remedial measures; or

(v) Disobey an order imposed by a tribunal unless done openly before the tribunal in a good faith assertion that no valid order should exist.

(2) The duties stated in paragraph (a) of this section continue to the conclusion of the proceedings, and apply even if compliance requires disclosure of information otherwise protected by § 776.25 of this part.

(3) A covered attorney may refuse to offer evidence that the covered attorney reasonably believes is false.

(4) In an ex parte proceeding, a covered attorney shall inform the tribunal of all material facts known to the covered attorney which are necessary to enable the tribunal to make an informed decision, whether or not the facts are adverse.

(b) [Reserved]

### § 776.43 Fairness to opposing party and counsel.

(a) *Fairness to opposing party and counsel.* A covered attorney shall not:

(1) Unlawfully obstruct another party's access to evidence or unlawfully alter, destroy, or conceal a document or other material having potential evidentiary value. A covered attorney shall not counsel or assist another person to do any such act;

(2) Falsify evidence, counsel or assist a witness to testify falsely, or offer an inducement to a witness that is prohibited by law;

(3) In pretrial procedure, make a frivolous discovery request or fail to make reasonably diligent effort to comply with a legally proper discovery request by an opposing party;

(4) In trial, allude to any matter that the covered attorney does not reasonably believe is relevant or that will not be supported by admissible evidence, assert personal knowledge of facts in issue except when testifying as a witness, or state a personal opinion as to the justness of a cause, the credibility of a witness, the culpability of a civil litigant, or the guilt or innocence of an accused; or

(5) Request a person other than a client to refrain from voluntarily giving relevant information to another party unless:

(i) The person is a relative, an employee, or other agent of a client; and

(ii) The covered attorney reasonably believes that the person's interests will not be adversely affected by refraining from giving such information.

(b) [Reserved]

### § 776.44 Impartiality and decorum of the tribunal.

(a) *Impartiality and decorum of the tribunal.* A covered attorney shall not:

(1) Seek to influence a judge, court member, member of a tribunal, prospective court member or member of a