

## Department of the Navy, DoD

## § 776.44

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

§ 776.45

tribunal, or other official by means prohibited by law or regulation;

(2) Communicate *ex parte* with such a person except as permitted by law or regulation; or

(3) Engage in conduct intended to disrupt a tribunal.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.45 **Extra-tribunal statements.**

(a) *Extra-tribunal statements:*

(1) A covered attorney shall not make an extrajudicial statement about any person or case pending investigation or adverse administrative or disciplinary proceedings that a reasonable person would expect to be disseminated by means of public communication if the covered attorney knows or reasonably should know that it will have a substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing an adjudicative proceeding or an official review process thereof.

(2) A statement referred to in paragraph (a)(1) of this section ordinarily is likely to have such an effect when it refers to a civil matter triable to a jury, a criminal matter, or any other proceeding that could result in incarceration, discharge from the Naval service, or other adverse personnel action, and the statement relates to:

(i) The character, credibility, reputation, or criminal record of a party, suspect in a criminal investigation, victim, or witness, or the identity of a victim or witness, or the expected testimony of a party, suspect, victim, or witness;

(ii) The possibility of a plea of guilty to the offense or the existence or contents of any confession, admission, or statement given by an accused or suspect or that person's refusal or failure to make a statement;

(iii) The performance or results of any forensic examination or test or the refusal or failure of a person to submit to an examination or test, or the identity or nature of physical evidence expected to be presented;

(iv) Any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of an accused or suspect in a criminal case or other proceeding that could result in incarceration, discharge from the Naval service, or other adverse personnel action;

(v) Information the covered attorney knows or reasonably should know is

likely to be inadmissible as evidence before a tribunal and would, if disclosed, create a substantial risk of materially prejudicing an impartial proceeding;

(vi) The fact that an accused has been charged with a crime, unless there is included therein a statement explaining that the charge is merely an accusation and that the accused is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty; or

(vii) The credibility, reputation, motives, or character of civilian or military officials of the Department of Defense.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2)(i) through (a)(2)(vii) of this section, a covered attorney involved in the investigation or litigation of a matter may state without elaboration:

(i) The general nature of the claim, offense, or defense;

(ii) The information contained in a public record;

(iii) That an investigation of the matter is in progress, including the general scope of the investigation, the offense or claim or defense involved and, except when prohibited by law or regulation, the identity of the persons involved;

(iv) The scheduling or result of any step in litigation;

(v) A request for assistance in obtaining evidence and information necessary thereto;

(vi) A warning of danger concerning the behavior of the person involved, when there is reason to believe that there exists the likelihood of substantial harm to an individual or to the public interest; and

(vii) In a criminal case, in addition to paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(vi) of this section:

(A) The identity, duty station, occupation, and family status of the accused;

(B) If the accused has not been apprehended, information necessary to aid in apprehension of that person;

(C) The fact, time, and place of apprehension; and (D) The identity of investigating and apprehending officers or agencies and the length of the investigation.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2)(i) through (a)(2)(vii) of this