Ethics for Police Legal Advisors

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Perception
-The Public
• The reasoned study of what is morally right and wrong, good and bad.

Ethics

• Ethical Principles are the general statements of moral behavior.

Unethical behavior

– Law enforcement

Common Causes of Misconduct

• Greed
• Lust
• Anger
• Peer Pressure
Ethical scenarios and policies

Impacts of unethical behavior

- Personal Job Discipline
- Liability
- Criminal Prosecution
- Agency standing in the community
- Agency oversite

American Bar Association
Model Rules of Professional Conduct
Rule 2.1: Advisor/Counselor

In representing a client, a lawyer shall exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice. In rendering advice, a lawyer may 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.

Rule 4.1
- Truthfulness in Statements to Others
- Transactions with Persons Other Than Clients

In the course of representing a client a lawyer shall not knowingly make a false statement of material fact or law to a third person.

Rule 8.4: Misconduct
Maintaining The Integrity Of the Profession

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

a. Violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another
Rule 8.4: Misconduct continued

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

b. commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects

c. engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation

d. engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice

e. state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official or to achieve results by means that violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law

f. knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or other law
Rule 8.4: Misconduct continued

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

g. Engage in conduct that the lawyer knows or reasonably should know is harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or socioeconomic status in conduct related to the practice of law.

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others.
Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

**Honest** in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in **obeying the law** and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

*I will never act officiously* or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, *I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear* or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

I recognize the badge of my office as a **symbol of public faith**, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. *I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers.* I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.
I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust.
I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.
I will always uphold the Constitution and the community I serve, so help me God.

Developed by the IACP Committee on Police Ethics