

# ***The Attorney-Client Relationship***

## Client

### **When You Hire a Lawyer, You Should Expect Professional and Ethical Behavior From a Lawyer Who:**

- WILL treat you with respect and courtesy.
- WILL handle your legal matter competently and diligently.
- WILL exercise independent professional judgment on your behalf.
- WILL charge a reasonable fee and explain in advance how that fee will be computed.
- WILL respond promptly to telephone calls and written communications.
- WILL keep you informed and provide you with copies of important papers.
- WILL preserve client confidences learned during the lawyer-client relationship.
- WILL exhibit the highest degree of ethical conduct and deal honestly and truthfully with you, the adversary, other lawyers and the judge.
- WILL be guided by a fundamental sense of fair play for the process and the participants and will not abuse the system or the profession.
- WILL respect your decisions on the objectives to be pursued in your case, as permitted by law and the rules of professional conduct, including whether to settle your case.

## Attorney

### **Your Lawyer Will Expect You to be Honest and Forthright:**

- TO treat the lawyer with courtesy and respect.
- TO tell your lawyer the truth and promptly notify the lawyer of any change of circumstance.
- TO understand that the lawyer has other clients who are equally deserving of the lawyer's time and efforts.
- TO tell your lawyer immediately if you are unhappy regarding the representation and the reasons why.
- TO refrain from asking the lawyer to engage in illegal, unethical or unprofessional activities.
- TO be prompt in communications, for appointments or legal proceedings.
- TO pay your lawyer promptly and as agreed.
- TO question promptly billing entries which appear incorrect or which you do not understand.
- TO discuss the matter with your attorney immediately if you cannot pay as agreed.