

BAR-BENCH RELATIONSHIP

**A PAPER PRESENTED ON THE
INDUCTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED
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INTRODUCTION

In this context, the bar refers to the advocates while the bench refers to judicial officers.

Bar bench, relationship in simple term is defined as a relationship between judicial officers and Advocates. Both play an important role in the administration of justice as they supplement each other. Therefore, mutual respect is key for maintenance of cordial relations between the two.

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It is therefore important for us to appreciate the duties of each of the players in the bar bench relations to ensure proper administration of justice.

DUTIES OF THE BAR

- Maintenance of Respect and confidence in the judicial office. This includes politeness to court and protection of court from unfair criticism .
- Not to provide undue attention and hospitality to the judicial officers in expectation of favours.
- A lawyer should be honest and fair even if judgment is against their client. This involves dealing with the facts and the law honestly.
- Competence and diligence

DUTIES OF THE BENCH

- Judicial Respect
- Patience & Listening
- Avoidance of interruptions
- Fairness to both parties
- Avoid un necessary adjournments
- Quick Disposal of cases
- Grounded in the Law
- Good appearance and conduct.

Bearing in mind the above duties, it is paramount to note that a good relationship between the two promotes independence of the judiciary and leads to effective administration of justice due a symbiotic relationship.

In addition, the bench needs to practice and adhere to the core values of judicial conduct as contained in the judicial code of conduct viz-

- Independence
- Impartiality
- Integrity
- Propriety
- Equality
- Accountability
- Transparency

Before I conclude I wish to quote some sayings for you to think about.

“Judge tenderly, if you must. There is usually a side you have not heard, a story you know nothing about, and a battle waged that you are not having to fight.” **Traci Lea Larussa**

“Don't judge too harshly, for if your weaknesses were to be placed under your footsteps, most likely you would stumble and fall as well.” **Richelle E. Goodrich**

“When you judge other people without wanting to know the true story behind their actions, is usually when there is something inside of you that is so broken that if you found out what you believed about them was a lie, you wouldn't want to accept it. **Shannon L. Alder**

“I'm not judging people, I'm judging their actions. It's the same type of distinction that I try to apply to myself, to judge, but not be judgmental.” **Jeff Melvoin**

“The greatest sin is judgment without knowledge”
Kelsey Grammer

CONCLUSION

- A strong relationship between the bar and the bench cannot be underestimated in the administration of justice which all of us should endeavor to promote and maintain in our daily work for the benefit of all.
I thank you.