



“Trust me. I’m a professional.”

Professionalism Month Scavenger Hunt

To get into the spirit of Professionalism Month, try participating in the virtual scavenger hunt. Simply submit “proof” of each activity via the INNOvation Education portal – it is a fun way to celebrate professionalism in the practice of law, and you could even find yourself on the American Inns of Court’s webpage. Whatever your motivation, participation is free and fun!

Activities to be **completed by April 30** and **submitted by May 1**.

Rules of Engagement:

1. "Proof" of completion can consist of uploading a photo, video, other creative documentation or posting on social media using the **#AICLivetheCreed** hashtag.
2. Complete at least five out of the first nine activities in any order you would like, leaving #10 for last, which is required.
3. Don't overthink it! If you think your submission should be counted, it probably will be. Your American Inns of Court judges are very nice.
4. Post additional comments or photos to social media: Tweet @InnsOfCourt, **#AICLivetheCreed** or on our Facebook page.
5. Join the hunt on your own, with a friend or even as an Inn.
6. HAVE FUN!

Item 1: Opposites Attract

Professional Creed: I will treat the practice of law as a learned profession and will uphold the standards of the profession with dignity, civility and courtesy.

Invite opposing counsel to coffee and talk about something other than your case. Or praise them: in private, in front of a client, in front of other attorneys. In some form or another, show some professional love for someone in the other camp. [If you're a judge, feel free to suggest participation to the people you feel might benefit the most from this exercise!]

- *Proof ideas: a selfie at the coffee shop, a screen shot of your invitation being accepted, a picture of a heartfelt handshake at the end of a long trial...*

Item 2: Promises, promises.

Professional Creed: I will value my integrity above all. My word is my bond.

In a nutshell, this tenet means: Say what you'll do and then do what you say. Make a promise to yourself or someone else about how you will practice the law...and then say it out loud.

- *Proof ideas: a picture of your new inspirational poster or post-it note, an audio file of your proclamation, a picture of someone "marking" your words...*

Item 3: Policies and Procedures

Professional Creed: I will develop my practice with dignity and will be mindful in my communications with the public that what is constitutionally permissible may not be professionally appropriate.

Create your own personal email/phone policy and share it with others, or adopt some of our samples for yourself.

- *Proof ideas: a copy of your new automated email message, a picture of you updating your voicemail with your new return call policy, the text of a tweet or email you almost sent but didn't, the story of your worst email disaster...*

Item 4: Order in the court.

Professional Creed: I will serve as an officer of the court, encouraging respect for the law in all that I do and avoiding abuse or misuse of the law, its procedures, its participants and its processes.

Review the codes of conduct for your jurisdiction with respected judges and attorneys to discuss courtroom practices—get everyone on the same page.

- *Proof ideas: host a brown bag and submit a copy of the notification flyer, a picture of the planning session for your Inn or bar association, a pdf of a new brochure put out by the court...*



Item 5: Creative Problem Solving

Professional Creed: I will represent the interests of my client with vigor and will seek the most expeditious and least costly solutions to problems, resolving disputes through negotiation whenever possible.

Read one of the attached articles on Alternative Dispute Resolution from Theo Cheng, practicing ADR attorney and current president of the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for ADR. Suggest another article that you have found helpful in identifying the balance or perspective this tenet of the Creed intends.

- *Proof ideas: a pdf of the article, add a link...*

Item 6: Get educated.

Professional Creed: I will work continuously to attain the highest level of knowledge and skill in the areas of the law in which I practice.

Read an article on a “cutting edge” issue of the law, attend a program or take an online course for CLE credit.

- *Proof ideas: a pdf of the article, review the article or program, a certificate of attendance...*

Item 7: Lend a helping hand.

Professional Creed: I will contribute time and resources to public service, charitable activities and pro bono work.

Share how you volunteer your time, whether at your Inn, in your community or through national organizations.

- *Proof ideas: a picture of you “in action” at a volunteer event, post a shout out to the volunteer organization on social media, contact for the organization with a brief plug for the work they do...*

Item 8: The Systematic Approach

Professional Creed: I will work to make the legal system more accessible, responsive and effective.

Get back to basics by getting involved in the greater legal community – volunteer with a legal services clinic, research interesting approaches to community policing, talk to providers of safety net services, or evaluate the fee structure of your firm.

- *Proof ideas: a selfie of your visit, a short article on how your neighbors view the “system,” a copy of a brochure for services or programs that touch on your practice...*

Item 9: Pay It Forward

Professional Creed: I will honor the requirements, the spirit and the intent of the applicable rules or codes of professional conduct for my jurisdiction, and will encourage others to do the same.

Share with your mentee a time when an act of professionalism changed the course of a case. Reach out to your mentor for some advice. Contact your alumni office and see about speaking to 3L students, or including them in an Inn or bar association meeting.

- *Proof ideas: a picture of the meeting, a short write up of the story you share, a selfie of the mentor/mentee pair or group...*

Item 10: Tell your story.

This is the only REQUIRED item! Once you’ve accomplished five out of the other nine items, write a short summary about your Scavenger Hunt experience:

- What new things did you learn?
- Did you learn something new about the law?
- Did you meet new and interesting people?
- What was the most fun you had?

Submit at least a short paragraph as a standard Word document and upload it for credit, including your name(s) and Inn or bar association affiliation. Extra points for creative expression! When this is completed, you’ll be issued a Certificate of Participation.