

APRL Listserv Community Guidelines

APRL is comprised of lawyers, law professors, and judges who share a common interest in legal ethics, professional responsibility, and the law of lawyering. APRL's mission is to seek to improve the practice of law through the development and promotion of adherence to sound rules and regulation of the legal profession.

APRL's listserv is a forum funded by the dues of paying members and, therefore, available to all current APRL members in good standing. The purpose of the listserv is to create a community for vibrant discussion and collaboration among APRL members on issues related to legal ethics, professional responsibility, the law of lawyering, and the legal profession, generally. Shared knowledge helps each of us to improve our skills, which, in turn, makes us better able to serve our clients, students, and community. To ensure the listserv remains both a helpful tool and an open and inclusive place for all APRL members, APRL has developed these Community Guidelines to outline the conduct permitted and expected from each APRL member using the listserv.

By posting to the listserv, you agree to abide by these Community Guidelines. Any posts that violate these Community Guidelines are subject to enforcement measures as described below.

- **Posts should relate to legal ethics and professional responsibility issues.** As APRL's Mission Statement reflects, the listserv was created to enable a focused, lively, and candid exchange among APRL members of information relevant to legal ethics and professional responsibility on a daily basis. Listserv communications should reflect APRL's mission to (1) monitor, comment upon, and initiate positive changes in laws and regulations regarding professional responsibility; (2) furnish support for the individual and collective efforts of APRL members concerning matters of legal ethics, professional responsibility, the law of lawyering and the legal profession, generally; (3) encourage the study, development, and implementation of sound ethical standards within the legal profession; (4) exchange various points of view on issues concerning legal ethics, professional responsibility, the law of lawyering, and the legal profession, generally, and provide cutting edge analysis in the area of professional responsibility and ethics; and, importantly, (5) create a platform for mutual support, friendship, and social interaction of organization members.

Consistent with APRL's mission, any discussions on the listserv should be limited to:

- Issues related to legal ethics, professional responsibility, the law of lawyering, or the legal profession, generally; and/or
- APRL as an organization, specific APRL events or initiatives, or accomplishments or related news of individual APRL members.

The following are examples of topics that do **not** comport with these Guidelines:

- Discussions about current events or political issues that are unrelated to APRL's mission;
- "Side conversations" between a small group of members that are not appropriate for the entire membership, with the exception of congratulatory and similar messages regarding special events or milestones.
- Postings that include racism, sexism, or any other discrimination.
- Postings that include personal attacks on other members.

One of the benefits of APRL membership is access to an online directory of all APRL members. If individual members would like to engage in a discussion that is not appropriate for the listserv, they are encouraged to do so privately in a forum where APRL members are not paying for each exchange. Contact information for individual members can be accessed in the APRL directory in order to facilitate such private or side conversations.

- **Only active APRL Members may post to the listserv.** Please do not routinely post on behalf of individuals who are not APRL members without first obtaining permission from an APRL Board member.
- **Not legal advice.** Information and/or opinions posted on the listserv are not legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. If you intend to give legal advice, please do so privately and confidentially with the appropriate recipients only. The listserv is an open forum for all members and APRL does not and cannot protect the confidentiality of communications made there. Each APRL member is responsible for making sure that, where appropriate, they do not disclose confidential, privileged, or case-identifiable information in their posts. APRL is not responsible for the opinions or information posted on the listserv.
- **No harassing or intimidating conduct.** Each APRL member who posts on the listserv ensures that the posts are respectful and constructive. Statements that are threatening or disrespectful, are personal attacks, or have the potential to intimidate, exclude, or silence others or to promote violence or illegal activity are not permitted.
- **Advertising, promotions, and fundraising.** Please do not post advertisements or promotions for any products, services, or events on the listserv without prior approval from an APRL Board member. Members **are** permitted to provide recommendations of other lawyers in response to a request for a referral on the listserv and may otherwise promote the skill or expertise of any individual lawyer. However, posts should not contain clearly unsolicited advertisements or promotions. In addition, any fundraising and donation requests should be approved by an APRL Board Member before posting.

Enforcement of APRL Listserv Community Guidelines

APRL's Board of Directors has authority to enforce the Community Guidelines. Enforcement measures may include, among other things, suspending posting on any topic if comments (or the topic itself) violates the Community Guidelines, suspending an APRL member's ability to post to the listserv, and, in extreme cases, suspending or terminating APRL membership. In addition, the President is granted authority to temporarily revoke Listserv privileges for up to seven (7) days, pending action by APRL's Board of Directors.