

ESSAYS IN LEGAL ETHICS

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Essays in legal ethics by Geo. W. Warvelle

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GEO. W. WARVELLE

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LEGAL ETHICS**

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LEGAL ETHICS

BY
GEO. W. WARVELLE, LL. D.

AUTHOR OF A TREATISE ON ABSTRACTS OF TITLE; THE
LAW OF VENDOR AND PURCHASER; PRINCIPLES
OF REAL PROPERTY, ETC.

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1902

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To

HON. THOMAS DENT,

OF CHICAGO, ILL.,

who, in his life and character, has so fully expressed
the professional ideal, this book is inscribed by

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

This little book is a compend of lectures delivered at various times to my own students and has been produced in response to numerous requests for publication. I have endeavored to treat the subject as an integral part of undergraduate study and to confine it within the lines of the regular law course. But little space has been devoted to ethical theory, the design of the work being rather an exposition of ethical precept, and only the practical phases of accepted modern theories have been presented. To a large extent professional conduct, like all other forms of ethical affirmation, is a matter of opinion, yet, in many of its manifestations, we may discern underlying principles that seem to compel the rule. Whenever possible I have endeavored to show this principle in connection with the rule that is founded upon it. In stating a rule or precept I have uniformly presented that which seems to have received the largest amount of adherence and whenever opportunity offered have reinforced same by a citation of judicial authority. These latter op-

portunities have necessarily been few. In the main, the ethical code of the legal profession has not been the subject of either legislative or judicial action, nor can it ever become such.

I do not offer this book as a treatise on moral duties, nor do I assume the character of a teacher of morals. It purports to be, and is, nothing more than a series of brief suggestions relative to professional conduct, and as such it is submitted to those for whom the subject may possess interest.

G. W. W.

Chicago, February 1, 1902.

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