

Perspective from the Bench

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Guardian and Ad Litem Certification Course
South Texas College of Law
September 17, 2008

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Rep·u·ta·tion

1. The estimation in which a person or thing is held, esp. by the community or the public generally; repute: a man of good reputation.
2. Favorable repute; good name: to ruin one's reputation by misconduct.
3. A favorable and publicly recognized name or standing for merit, achievement, reliability, etc.: to build up a reputation.
4. The estimation or name of being, having, having done, etc., something specified: He has the reputation of being a shrewd businessman.

The great jurist, Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo, once said, "Reputation and learning are akin to capital assets, like the good will of an old partnership...For many, they are the only tools with which to hew a pathway to success."

1. You are, as an attorney, granted a good reputation for truth and veracity along with your law degree. It is yours to nurture, use, and abuse.
2. I have set out Rule 3.03 in full below, concerning candor toward the tribunal. It should be obvious that making a false statement of material fact of law to a tribunal is unethical, but apparently it is not so obvious to many attorneys, young and old, that it is foolish.