

12 February 2024

Dear Legal Practitioners & Candidate Legal Practitioners,

This notice acts as a reminder of the Legal Practice Council Code of Conduct, which applies to all legal practitioners (attorneys and advocates) as well as all candidate legal practitioners and juristic entities. In particular, the provisions of clause 28 of the Code of Conduct which states that:

"A legal practitioner must not, in the course of his or her practice, do anything which is likely to diminish public confidence in the integrity of the profession or the administration of justice or otherwise bring the profession into disrepute."

We note that this clause is intended to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in the legal profession, and to protect the public interest and the reputation of the profession.

We hereby urge all legal practitioners and candidate legal practitioners to comply with this clause and to refrain from any conduct that may violate it, such as:

- Making false, misleading, or defamatory statements about other legal practitioners, the judiciary, or any other person or institution involved in the administration of justice;
- Engaging in any dishonest, fraudulent, or unlawful activities in relation to your practice or your clients;
- Abusing your position or authority as a legal practitioner to intimidate, harass, or discriminate against anyone on any grounds;
- Failing to act diligently, competently, and faithfully in the best interests of your clients and the court;
- Breaching any of the rules of confidentiality, privilege, or conflict of interest that apply to your practice;
- Charging excessive or unreasonable fees or expenses for your services; and
- Failing to account for or to pay over any money or property entrusted to you by your clients or any other person.

We note further that any breach of clause 28 or any other provision of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the Legal Practice Council, which may include sanctions such as a reprimand, a fine, a suspension, or a removal from the roll of legal practitioners.

We appreciate your cooperation and your commitment to upholding the dignity and integrity of the legal profession.

Legal Practice Council