

Chapters 18 to 20

Rules Governing the Practice of Law

Preamble to Chapters 18 to 20

The Colorado Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the practice of law in Colorado. The Court appoints an Advisory Committee, Attorney Regulation Counsel, Presiding Disciplinary Judge, Executive Director of the Colorado Lawyers Assistance Program (COLAP) and Director of the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP) to assist the Court. The Court also appoints numerous volunteer citizens to permanent regulatory committees and boards to assist in regulating the practice of law.

The legal profession serves clients, courts and the public, and has special responsibilities for the quality of justice administered in our legal system. The Court establishes essential eligibility requirements, rules of professional conduct and other rules for the legal profession. Legal service providers must be regulated in the public interest. In regulating the practice of law in Colorado in the public interest, the Court's objectives include:

1. Increasing public understanding of and confidence in the rule of law, the administration of justice and each individual's legal rights and duties;
2. Ensuring compliance with essential eligibility requirements, rules of professional conduct and other rules in a manner that is fair, efficient, effective, targeted and proportionate;
3. Enhancing client protection and promoting consumer confidence through Attorney Regulation Counsel, the Attorneys Fund for Client Protection, inventory counsel services, the regulation of non-lawyers engaged in providing legal services, and other proactive programs;
4. Assisting providers of legal services in maintaining competence and professionalism through continuing legal education; Attorney Regulation Counsel professionalism, ethics and trust account schools; and other proactive programs;
5. Helping lawyers throughout the stages of their careers successfully navigate the practice of law and thus better serve their clients, through COLAP, CAMP and other proactive programs;
6. Promoting access to justice and consumer choice in the availability and affordability of competent legal services;
7. Safeguarding the rule of law and ensuring judicial and legal service providers' independence sufficient to allow for a robust system of justice;

8. Promoting diversity, inclusion, equality and freedom from discrimination in the delivery of legal services and the administration of justice; and
9. Protecting confidential client information.

Adopted by the Court, En Banc, April 7, 2016, effective immediately.

By the Court:

Monica M. Márquez
Justice, Colorado Supreme Court