

Ethics and the Judiciary

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The Article explores the role that ethics play in the functioning of the judiciary, particularly on the level of the individual judge. It first clarifies that ethics refers to social morals which are standards of conduct that change as time passes, as opposed to religious morals which are static and unalterable. Then, it posits that the progressive nature of morals affects the judge in two planes: first, it flows through his work as he adjudicates according to legislative statutes embodying the social morals of the community; and second, it guides the personal conduct of the judge outside of the court's chambers. In this respect, it ends by emphasizing impartiality as the most important virtue of a judge, a quality marked by fair play, independence, integrity, and above all, justice, which is the object the law.