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PROFESSIONALISM,
CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN,
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &
VICTIM'S RIGHTS

If we don't try, we don't do.
And if we don't do,
why are we here on this Earth?

~ Charles Anderson ~
(Portrayed by Jimmy Stewart
in the film *Shenandoah*)

GA Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of A Prosecutor

A Prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not just an advocate.

Victim's Rights Bill

OCGA 17-17-1 through 17-17-13

WHY SHOULD THIS BE IMPORTANT TO US?

- 64,464 = Number of Domestic Violence Incidents that were **reported** to Law Enforcement in Georgia in 2007.
- 700 = Number of Georgia citizens who lost their lives due to domestic violence from 2003 - 2008.
- 15th in Nation is where GA ranks for it's rate of men killing women (GA has been in the top 20 for all 10 years of the study).

~ GA Commission on Family Violence

PROFESSIONALISM IN THE CONTEXT OF VICTIM RIGHTS

- Personalize Yourself
- Be Honest
- Be Yourself
  - If You're A Jerk - Be Someone Else...
- Be Respectful
- Listen, Listen, Listen
- Don't be in a Hurry
- Assume Responsibility of the Victim's Case

PROFESSIONALISM IS SO MUCH MORE...

Seeking Justice When The Odds Are Against You

STEERING THE SHIP

It's about the waves, the currents and the icebergs you encounter when prosecuting a case.

OWN IT!

- Use your team, but assume responsibility of the case.
- Listen to the victim, consider the victim's input, and make a just decision.
- Don't let it be the victim's burden to decide what happens to the case.

NO EXCUSES!

Excuses are the nails used to build a house of failure.

Don Wilder and Bill Rechin

#1 Excuse

MY CASELOAD IS TOO HIGH

Become a snail farmer

#2 Excuse

THE JUDGE WANTS TO MOVE THE CASE

You do too, but not at the expense of justice.

#3 Excuse

"THE VICTIM DOESN'T CARE, WHY SHOULD I?"

It's your duty to care. It's your obligation to represent the standards of the community.

“TRY to make something happen.”

~ A Victim Advocate

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To Conclude

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

~ 2 Timothy 4:7

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