

Professionalism in Practice: Attorney William White

Nominated by Attorney Mark Arend

To understand the extent of William “Bill” White’s professionalism, ethics, and civility, you should know that the person who nominated him for a Professionalism in Practice (PiP) award was his opposing counsel.

This was following a civil anti-harassment case in which it was clear that both parties were incapable of any form of communication about resolution. It seemed destined for court with little hope for mediation. Then Bill stepped in.

First, he called opposing counsel to introduce himself and, respectfully, discuss options for immediate resolution. It became clear that Bill had some creative solutions that were good for both parties; the hard part was working with his own client to move past emotion and show the value of setting aside differences to end the case.

“Bill proceeded to encourage his client to resolve the matter,” said Mark Arend, the opposing counsel who nominated Bill. “He did so in a manner by which it was clear that he respected his client above all, advised his client extremely well under the law and in practicality, and had worked hard to earn his client’s deep and unwavering respect.”

The solution was good for both parties and, with his client on board, Bill brought the solution to the court, which was quite receptive as well.

“Bill’s respect for the court was exemplary,” Arend recalls. “Even (the opposing) client was complimentary of Bill’s demeanor and approach to the case. In the end, everyone was satisfied and I gained a friend in Bill. Bill’s ‘professionalism in practice is truly the standard by which to measure attorneys and is worthy of recognition.”

Have you witnessed an act of outstanding professionalism by a WSBA member? Please submit a PiP nomination using the form at www.wsba.org/for-legal-professionals/member-support/professionalism. The WSBA presents these awards continually throughout the year — often in a surprise delivery, a la Publishers Clearing House! — in recognition of legal professionals who advance the rule of law through day-to-day acts of integrity, respectfulness, cooperation, and customer service. Email barleaders@wsba.org for more information.