

Marines,

I just posted this to SharePoint, but want to ensure all of you get this in case you don't have an alert set up for announcements.

I cannot express enough how honored I am to be appointed as your Chief Defense Counsel, and I look forward to the challenge of leading the Marine Corps Defense Community into the future. This is an exciting time to be a defense counsel, as we have a well earned reputation as zealous advocates for Marines and Sailors assigned to Marine organizations. I intend to take the next several weeks to review the way we are doing business and expect that I'll implement some changes after meeting with the Regional Defense Counsels in Okinawa at the end of the month. In the interim, I wanted to set forth my expectations of you:

1. Zealously defend your client—this begins with preparation and professionalism.
2. Be good Marines—PT, do your PME, and support command functions.
3. Use SharePoint, the telephone, e-mail, or the like to collaborate and learn from each other; except in conflict cases, we are a 50-plus attorney law firm.
4. Don't be afraid to call me directly.
5. Follow my five rules:
 - a. Never utter the word "unethical" about an attorney or judge, or allege UCI, without consulting your RDC.
 - b. Never interview an important witness by yourself
 - b. Always remember the final call on whether to plead guilty or accept a deal is the client's—you advise, they decide.
 - c. Never reveal client confidences unless authorized by the client or the Rules of Professional Responsibility.
 - e. Never go into court unprepared.

I look forward to meeting and working with all in the coming months.

Semper Fi,


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