

**THE AMERICAN CITIZEN – LAWYER
WHO ARE WE ANYWAY?**

**AND WHAT DOES ETHICS AND
PROFESSIONALISM HAVE TO
DO WITH IT?**

A
PHILOSOPHICAL
PERSPECTIVE

I YAM WHAT I YAM



AND THAT'S ALL THAT I YAM

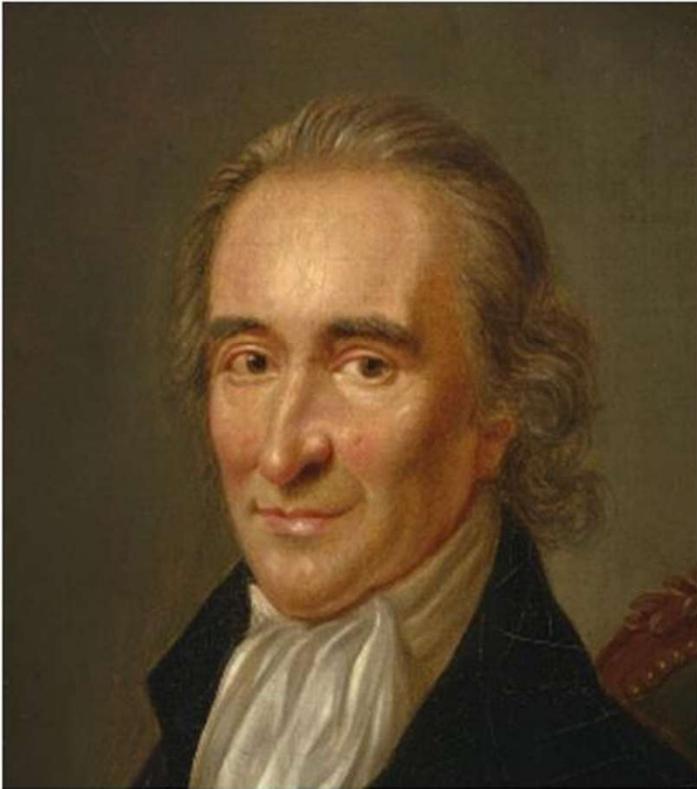
A NO CAUSE!

OUCH!



THE HEART OF THE MATTER:

WHO ARE WE?



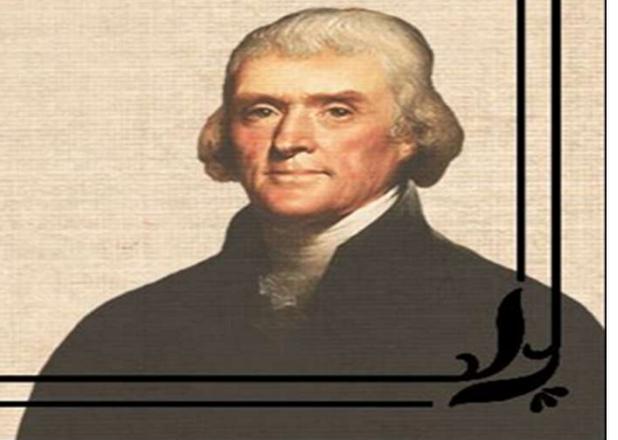
**“ We have it in
our power to
begin the world
over again. ”**

Thomas Paine (Common Sense)



We hold these truths to be self-evident:
that all men are created equal; that they are
endowed by their Creator with certain
unalienable rights; that among these are life,
liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

-Thomas Jefferson-



The Declaration of Independence states the principles upon which our government and our identity as Americans are based.

*"And for the support of this
declaration, with a firm reliance on the
protection of divine providence, we
mutually pledge to each other our lives,
our fortunes and our sacred honor."*

U.S. Declaration of Independence

THE PEOPLE of the United States, for the common defence, promote the welfare, to insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the welfare, and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States in full Power.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, which shall consist of a certain number of Representatives from each State, who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who, when elected, shall have been seven Years a Citizen of the State in which they shall be chosen. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Electors in each State, for six Years, and each Senator shall have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and two Years a Citizen of the State in which he shall be chosen. They shall, when first met, choose one of their Number to be President of the Senate, and when the President of the Senate is absent, they shall choose one of their Number to act in his stead. The Senate shall have the sole and exclusive Power of trying all Cases impeached by the House of Representatives, and when sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. The President, Vice President, and all civil Officers and Judges shall be impeachable by the Senate. The Senate shall have the sole and exclusive Power of judging of the Impeachments, and the Oath or Affirmation of the Senators shall be taken before they sit for that Purpose. The Senate shall have the sole and exclusive Power of fixing the Time and Place of their Meetings, and shall have the sole and exclusive Power of opening and receiving all Applications for Pardons and Reprieves from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall have the sole Power of granting Pardons and Reprieves, except in Cases of Impeachment. The Senate shall have the sole and exclusive Power of confirming and rejecting all Appointments made by the President, and shall have the sole and exclusive Power of fixing the Time and Place of their Meetings, and shall have the sole and exclusive Power of opening and receiving all Applications for Pardons and Reprieves from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall have the sole Power of granting Pardons and Reprieves, except in Cases of Impeachment. The Senate shall have the sole and exclusive Power of confirming and rejecting all Appointments made by the President, and shall have the sole and exclusive Power of fixing the Time and Place of their Meetings, and shall have the sole and exclusive Power of opening and receiving all Applications for Pardons and Reprieves from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall have the sole Power of granting Pardons and Reprieves, except in Cases of Impeachment.

The American Experiment:

Our Founders created a possibility that heretofore never existed. An American citizen free, just, and equal by declaration only, would be able to use reason to self govern responsibly and thus achieve our country.



Posterity! you will never know how much it cost
the present generation to preserve your freedom! I
hope you will make a good use of it. If you do not,
I shall repent in Heaven that I ever took half the
pains to preserve it.

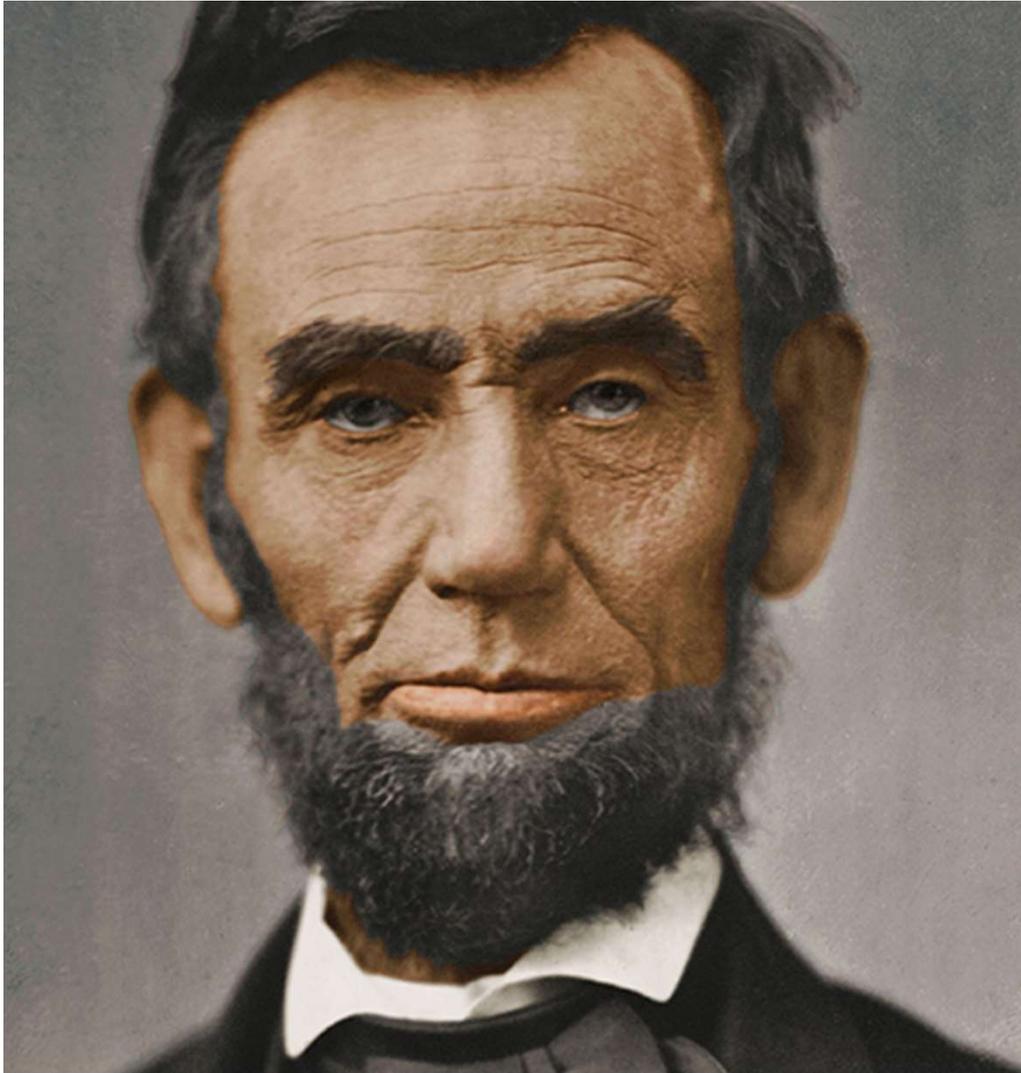
(John Adams)

izquotes.com

**We are Responsible for
The Stewardship of the
American Experiment**

Stewardship:

The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

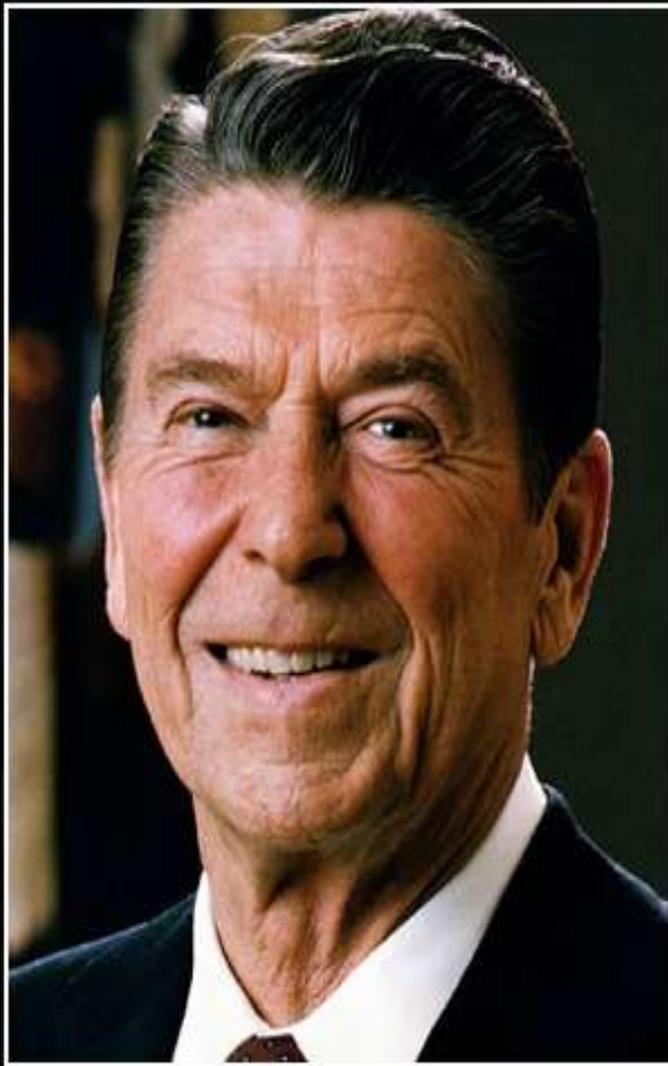


“that these dead shall not have died in vain... and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

“And so, my fellow Americans:
ask not what your country can do
for you—ask what you can do for
your country.”

John F. Kennedy





With freedom goes responsibility, a responsibility that can only be met by the individual himself.

— *Ronald Reagan* —

AZ QUOTES

Barack Obama's Farewell Address Re: Atticus Finch



**Miss Jean Louise, stand up.
Your father's passin'.**

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”



The Whole Ball of Wax:

We are responsible for our principled behavior i.e. the content of one's character,
(The Buck Stops Here.)

DO
YOUR
TOWN
THING



Do your own

Responsible thing.



**“Let us re-adopt the Declaration of Independence, and with it, the practices, and policy, which harmonize with it.”
(Abraham Lincoln)**



Ethics and Professionalism

25 Tips on Professionalism

Every year, the **New Jersey Commission on Professionalism** in the Law honors the attorneys and jurists in the state – from every sector of the practice and every organized bar association. **These are the people who have epitomized the highest standards of the profession.** To help celebrate the commission's silver anniversary, a compilation of tips have been collected from the honorees.

1. Respect everyone, even when it appears to be difficult. Disrespect is rarely justified or productive.

6. With power and authority comes responsibility. Exercise your power to affect the lives of others in a civil, kind, respectful, fair and considerate manner.

9. You can argue about the facts, but never attack the person.

12. Treat everyone fairly,
impartially and justly, all the
time and everywhere, without
regard to their position, status or
role in the proceedings.

14. Win or lose, being a lawyer gives you the opportunity to be a true champion – someone who defends or stands up for others – every day of your professional life, and to do so with courage, integrity and civility.

15. Always strive – regardless of who you represent – to fairly and honorably seek justice for your client on an even playing field.

16. Quoting **John Wooden**, the famous men's basketball coach at UCLA, "Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are".

17. As professionals, we are equal before the law, and measured only by our abilities and character.

21. Return phone calls promptly.

25. Above all, just do the right thing.

Anchor your law practice in the
Stewardship of America by how
you go about practicing law i.e.
put principle first.

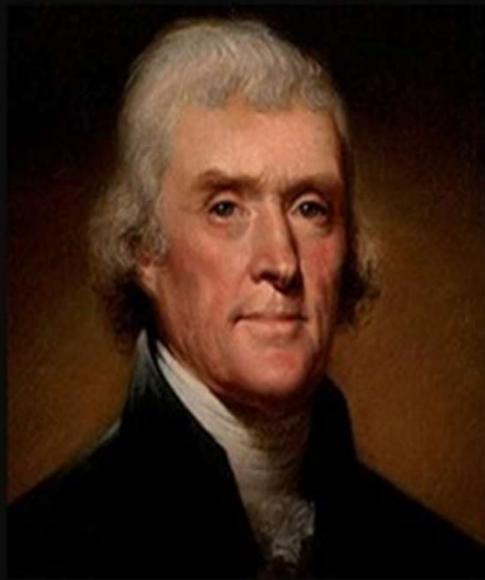
THE PAYOFF:

1. Satisfaction and fulfillment;
2. A competitive edge;
3. The making of one's own character;
4. A strength and a resilience up against the daily angst;
5. And without sacrificing one's own self-interest – Win a zillion cases.

Just do it honorably

(As you see fit in light of your responsibility for the greatest experiment in the history of civilization)

Thomas Jefferson



No experiment can be more interesting than that we are now trying, and which we trust will end in establishing the fact, that man may be governed by reason and truth.

AZ QUOTES

“And now I appeal to all—are you really willing that the Declaration shall be thus frittered away?—thus left no more at most, than an interesting memorial of the dead past? ...shorn of its vitality, and practical value; and left without the germ or even the suggestion of the individual rights of man in it?”

Abraham Lincoln (1857)