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The legal profession has been ‘taking it on the chin’ since Biblical times. Yes, Virginia, there are derogatory Biblical references to lawyers.

I submit as evidence the ubiquitous and ancient lawyer humor such as:

Q - How do know when a lawyer is lying? A - His lips are moving.

The sad fact is that in order for such humor to be funny, there must be an element of truth to it. However, I will stipulate that not all attorneys are unethical or incompetent or bad; it’s just that way too many of them (most of them) are, and they are allowed to be so without sanction.

We have, in assessing the Bar Association, a brotherhood of brainwashed individuals who hold an exclusive monopoly on the practices of one of the most important institutions of our country. Think about what we are dealing with:

Lawyers come out of law school trained to think in that certain ‘lawyerly’ way that has precious little to do with common sense or honesty, fact-finding or truth.

Having self-proclaimed their superior integrity, they regulate themselves according to their own peculiarly devious and highly subjective ethical code, without impartial oversight of any kind.

Their Bar Association is, in effect a union, which bars competent people from joining and which prohibits any outside competition upon pain of imprisonment.

I have the occasion to spend a lot of time working with, working against, and observing lawyers. What I have seen is very dismaying from an ethical perspective. Yet, one would hope that an unethical attorney could be properly disciplined. Yeah, right.

I recently made a complaint to the Attorney Regulation Counsel about an attorney who has a history of making false statements to the court in her official capacity as a Guardian ad Litem. I was the subject of one of those false reports. I wanted to know if it was “ethical for an attorney to make a false or misleading statement about an innocent bystander to the court with the intention of harassing and embarrassing that bystander and of having the court punish that bystander?”

The verbal response was, “No, but you’re putting words in my mouth.” (Read: it is not ethical for a member of the Bar to do what you described, but that’s not what she did).

The written response was that the attorney in question was “mistaken [and this] does not rise to the level of dishonesty or perpetrating a misrepresentation to the court. I simply means [the attorney] was incorrect.”

I see. . . if an attorney knowingly says something maliciously untrue in court and gets caught, it’s not a lie, it’s a mistake. This is the self-regulation racket at its best - a brotherhood dedicated to protecting its own.

I was urged “to seek legal counsel to review my remedies, if any.” Yeah, right. If you try to seek civil recourse, you can hardly find an attorney who will take your lawsuit or even file a complaint against another attorney. That’s part of the code of the brotherhood. Even if you do find one, the case will be heard by a judge who is - you guessed it - an attorney. We’re stuck with the schmucks. And attorneys wonder why they have a bad reputation and why people don’t like them or trust them.

I submit as evidence of this fact, a true story from a woman who was on a panel for prospective jury duty. “The first lawyer questioning them began right off as an intimidating showman. Then he came to his question, ‘Do any of you here today dislike lawyers?’ Before the

pause became too long, the judge announced, 'I do'."

And lest any of us out there think attorneys have managed to keep a lick of common sense through law school, I leave you with this true account of an attorney's examination of a witness as reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers journal:

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?

A: It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.