

## **CALE/ACEJ Listserv Community Guidelines**

The Canadian Association for Legal Ethics / Association canadienne pour l'éthique juridique (CALE/ACEJ) is a federal not-for-profit corporation whose members are academics, lawyers, and regulators interested in topics related to ethics and professionalism in the Canadian legal profession. CALE/ACEJ seeks to encourage and facilitate debate on issues of legal ethics and professionalism in Canada and to increase awareness about those issues in the public, the profession and the judiciary.

### **Listserv Subscription is Not Membership**

A subscription to the CALE/ACEJ listserv is not equivalent to membership in CALE/ACEJ. The CALE/ACEJ listserv is generally open to lawyers, legal academics (including full-time academics in law schools, adjunct law professors and graduate students in law), judges and those who work in a professional regulatory capacity. Requests to join the listserv are considered by the Chief Information Officer of CALE/ACEJ.

### **Community and Common Interest**

In subscribing to the CALE/ACEJ listserv, subscribers become part of a community that shares a common interest in legal ethics, judicial ethics, professional responsibility, the regulation of legal services and the law of lawyering.

The CALE/ACEJ listserv exists in this professional and respectful learning context. Subscribers are reminded of the relationship thus created among the several hundred subscribers and the responsibilities that each poster therefore assumes to provide pertinent information or contribute to debate on the objects of mutual interest. This understanding of the relationship among CALE/ACEJ listserv subscribers is the linchpin of the listserv guidelines set out below.

### **Only Subscribers May Post**

Only subscribers to the CALE/ACEJ listserv may post to the listserv. Subscribers assume sole responsibility and accountability for any message they send. Subscribers accept that they are not relying on CALE/ACEJ or any other person to monitor, edit, or control messages sent or received through the listserv.

### **Posts and Responses Should Not Be Discussed Outside the Listserv**

Bearing in mind the nature of the relationship and common goals among subscribers, subscribers should not treat opinions and comments provided on the listserv as public comment for the purposes of academic or other analysis and broader discussion. Quoting postings to the listserv in academic articles or in media reports does not further the purposes of this listserv, and subscribers are not to do so without applicable permission. More

generally, subscribers are also not to circulate related discussions from the listserv to people outside the listserv without applicable permission. Subscribers must likewise abide by academic integrity's core principles, including not plagiarizing posts/content or appropriating expressed ideas without permission. If a subscriber wishes to use or share such listserv comments/content, they need to obtain permission from the applicable posters and give appropriate credit.

### **Scope of Posts**

Any discussions on the CALE/ACEJ listserv should be limited to:

1. Issues directly related to legal ethics. This includes topics of professional responsibility, the conduct of the judiciary, the regulation of legal services, the law of lawyering, or the legal profession, generally; and/or
2. CALE/ACEJ as an organization. This includes specific CALE/ACEJ events or initiatives or accomplishments or related news of individual CALE/ACEJ members.

Listsers communications should reflect CALE/ACEJ's efforts to:

1. Create a community of interest and a platform for mutual support and social interaction for those interested in legal ethics; and
2. Encourage the study, development, and implementation of sound ethical standards within the legal professions.

For further clarity, the following are examples of topics that should not be posted or discussed on the listserv:

1. Discussions about legal developments, current events or political issues without clear links to legal ethics. While many important issues engage ethical issues and considerations from various perspectives, the listserv's focus is on those that engage *legal* ethics given its and CALE/ACEJ's nature.
2. Harassing, intimidating and disrespectful conduct. Subscribers must refrain from statements that have the potential to intimidate others or to promote discrimination, hatred, violence or illegal activity. Messages that are libelous, defamatory, threatening, fraudulent, or otherwise unlawful are also prohibited.
3. Posts which request or offer legal advice. Subscribers should not couch their posts in the language of legal advice.
4. Advertising, promotions, and fundraising. Subscribers cannot post advertisements or promotions for any non-CALE/ACEJ or non-academic (e.g. textbooks or casebooks) products or services or any events without clear legal ethics connections without prior approval from the CALE/ACEJ Board. Subscribers are permitted to provide

recommendations in response to a request for a referral on the listserv. In addition, any fundraising or donation requests should be sent to the CALE/ACEJ Board for consideration and potential posting.

### **Responses to Inappropriate Posts or Conduct in Relation to the Listserv**

Posts to the listserv are not vetted by CALE/ACEJ before being sent to all subscribers of the listserv. In response to inappropriate posts or other conduct in relation to the listserv, the Board may, if it determines it is warranted:

1. suggest to a subscriber that their posts are not appropriate for the listserv;
2. remove a subscriber from the listserv temporarily;
3. permanently remove a subscriber from the listserv;
4. permanently revoke membership in CALE/ACEJ under its Bylaws; and/or
5. pursue any other appropriate remedy.

CALE/ACEJ officers may also determine and suggest that a post or other listserv conduct is inappropriate. In appropriate circumstances (e.g. time-sensitive, excessive), the Chief Information Officer may temporarily remove a subscriber, which the Board will review upon request.