The Province of the Law

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THE PROVINCE OF THE LAW

To hold the balance true 'twixt Right and Wrong:
   To know and show no favor and no fear:
To be against the predatory strong
   A buckler for the weak. To hold more dear
The calm, pure flame of Reason than the flare
   Of Oratory's fierce, impassioned flow!
Through sophistries and quibbles to lay bare
   The inner truth, so that all men may know!

Proud, with a pride that flares in wrathful flame
   When Craft, for favor, bends a fawning knee:
Strong, with a strength that heeds nor praise nor blame
   Not well and surely earned! Content to be
Deaf to the wooing whispers of Chicane
   When specious phrases weave a charmed allure:
Blind to the proffered prize of place or gain
   By other means than Honor may ensure!

Unswayed by malice, prejudice or greed,
   Or pleas that twist the truth awry:
Unswerving from the fine but simple creed:—
   "Let come what may the Right shall never die!"
To keep her 'scutcheon undefaced and pure:
   Free of all stain: unmarred by any flaw:
To see her guard be ever strong and sure—
   That is the crown and glory of the Law!

Mark Forrest
THE PROVINCE OF THE LAWYER

I do solemnly swear:

I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin;

I will maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers;

I will not consent or maintain any suit or proceeding which shall appear to me to be unjust, or any defense, except such as I believe to be honestly debatable under the laws of the land;

I will employ, for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to me, such means only as are consistent with truth and honor, and will never seek to mislead the judge or jury by any artifice or false statement of fact or law;

I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my client and will accept no compensation in connection with his business except from him or with his knowledge and approval;

I will abstain from all offensive personality and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged;

I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay any man's cause for lucre or malice. So help me God.

1 Oath on admission to the Bar in Wisconsin.