Lincoln and Leadership

Can Abe Lincoln Speak to Today's Lawyer about Leadership?

© Maureen Lally-Green 2019
Retired Dean, Duquesne University School of Law
Retired Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania

Lincoln and Leadership

In the 1800s – what guided lawyers –
And, particularly, Abe Lincoln -- in terms of Ethics,
Professionalism, and Leadership?
Lincoln and Leadership

Abe Lincoln had a reputation as a Lawyer for
Honesty
Integrity
Discipline and Determination
Professionalism

These traits were also key aspects of his Leadership

Lincoln the lawyer emerging as the leader

1858: “House Divided” Speech
1860: Cooper Union Address
1861: Lincoln (elected, not inaugurated)
Independence Hall, Philadelphia
Lincoln the lawyer emerging as the leader

6/15/1858: “House Divided:” a crisis is coming

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.’ I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved – I do not expect the house to fall – but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other."

Lincoln the lawyer emerging as the leader

2/27/1860: Cooper Union Address

Lincoln reaffirmed his view that slavery should not be expanded into the western territories and He claimed that the Founding Fathers would agree with this position.
Lincoln the lawyer -- now the leader

2/22/1861: Lincoln (elected, not inaugurated)
Independence Hall, Philadelphia

Lincoln’ announces his leadership is to be:
• Rooted in the principles enunciated in the Declaration of Independence
• Grounded on the reality that there will be no civil war unless the Republic is forced to act in self defense

Lincoln and Leadership

Abe Lincoln, the Lawyer and the Leader:

• Master of his Own Behavior and Ethics
  • Master Realist
  • Master Communicator
Lincoln and Leadership

He was a Master of his Behavior and Ethics
Clarity of purpose, Determination / Discipline
Interactions with others
Competence in his actions
Humility
Courage
Honesty
Integrity
The peacemaker

Lincoln and Leadership

He was a Master of his Behavior and Ethics

As we shall see, Lincoln’s behavior and ethics, in many respects, are reflected in our

- Rules of Professional Conduct and
- The Canons of Judicial Conduct
- Code of Civility
Lincoln: Lawyer and Leader
– and the lawyer of today
Pennsylvania Code of Professional Conduct

Article 1: Client - Lawyer
Article 2: Counselor
Article 3: Advocate
Article 4: Transactions with those not a Client
Article 5: Law Firms and Associations
Article 6: Public Service
Article 7: Information about Legal Services
Article 8: Maintaining the Integrity of the Legal Profession

Lincoln: Lawyer and Leader
– and the Judge of today:
Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct

**CANON 1.** Judges should uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary

**CANON 2.** Judges should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all their activities

**CANON 3.** Judges should perform the duties of their office impartially and diligently

**CANON 4.** Judges may engage in activities to improve the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice
... likewise in our Code of Judicial Conduct

**CANON 5.** Judges should regulate their extra-judicial activities to minimize the risk of conflict with their judicial duties

**CANON 6.** Compensation received for quasi-judicial and extra-judicial activities permitted by this code

**CANON 7.** Judges should refrain from political activity inappropriate to their judicial office

Lincoln and Leadership

**Master of his behavior:**
Clarity of Purpose, Determination and Discipline

“Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality”

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing.”

Abe Lincoln
Lincoln and Leadership

Master of his behavior: Determination and Discipline

“Success is going from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.”

Abe Lincoln

Lincoln and Leadership

Master of his behavior: Interactions with others

“The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend.”

Abe Lincoln
Lincoln and Leadership

**Master of his behavior:**
Interactions with others

“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.”

Abe Lincoln

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Lincoln and Leadership

**Master of his behavior:**
Competence

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

Abe Lincoln
Lincoln and Leadership

**Master of his behavior**

**Humility**

“Don’t worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition.”

Abe Lincoln

Lincoln and Leadership

**Master of his behavior**

**Courage**

“Courage is not the absence of fear. It is going forward in the face of fear.”

Abe Lincoln
Lincoln and Leadership

**Master of his behavior**

**Honesty**

“No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.”

Abe Lincoln

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**Master of his behavior:**

**Integrity**

“No, man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.”

Abe Lincoln
Lincoln and Leadership

Master of his behavior: Integrity
“I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody who stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.”

Abe Lincoln

Lincoln and Leadership

Master of his behavior: The Peacemaker
“Die when I may, I want it said by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.”

Abe Lincoln
Abe Lincoln, the Lawyer and the Leader:

**Master Realist**
Aware of Reality
Self Reliant

“I can make more generals, but horses cost money.”

Abe Lincoln
Lincoln and Leadership

**Master Realist**

Self Reliance

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

Abe Lincoln

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Lincoln and Leadership

**Master Communicator**

Connecting with what really mattered to the people

“With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.”

Abe Lincoln
Parting thoughts from Abe

“I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn’t have the heart to let him down.”

Abe Lincoln
In the End

“And, in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”

Abe Lincoln

Thank you

It has been my privilege to be here with you today.
Some information

• Rules of Professional Conduct
  • http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org/documents/RPC

• Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement
  • http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org/documents/Db oard.pdf

Some information

Bar Admission Rules
http://www.pabarexam.org

Continuing Legal Education Rules
http://www.pacle.org

Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts Board Rules
http://www.paiolta.org
Some information

Code of Civility

http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/204/chapter99/subchapDtoc.html

http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol35/35-19/879.html