

ABA Michael Franck Award Citation 1998

Monroe H. Freedman

Professor Monroe H. Freedman was selected as the 1998 recipient of the Michael H. Franck Professional Responsibility Award to honor his lifetime of original and influential scholarship in the field of lawyers' ethics.

The Howard Lichtenstein Distinguished Professor of Legal Ethics at Hofstra University Law School, his scholarship has shaped the debate in legal ethics, beginning with his 1966 article "The Professional Responsibility of the Criminal Defense Lawyer: The Three Hardest Questions."

A prolific author, Prof. Freedman has also written several books, including "Lawyers' Ethics in an Adversary System" and "Understanding Lawyers' Ethics."

Although many of Prof. Freedman's ideas were first considered controversial, they have since become an integral part of the law governing lawyers. He was the first scholar to argue that comprehensive restrictions on advertising violated the First Amendment and that they unduly restricted the availability of legal services to citizens who are most in need of information about their legal rights. Another of Prof. Freedman's major contributions is the recognition of the crucial role that the concept of "knowing" has played in ethical rules.

Boston College Law Professor Charles Baron noted in a review of one of Prof. Freedman's books:

"Monroe Freedman is in the grand tradition of Socrates . . . [H]e is essentially a moralist . . . He confesses error on several occasions regarding positions he has taken earlier and anticipates having to do it again on positions he hazards this time around. His is the old-fashioned, philosophical dedication to truth. He is not afraid to admit error, nor to take on sacred cows."