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What are the duties and purposes of a lawyer?

There is an erroneous conception permeating the social fabric of our community as to the duties and purposes of a lawyer; why this misconception exists is another matter, but the fact remains that it is with the public. This notion is that the prime duty of the lawyer is to extricate persons who for some reason or other are being held in the clutches of the law, and to use the power and privileges granted by the state to pervert justice.

It is true in many cases the lawyer is called upon to defend the culprit who has committed or is charged with committing a crime, but this is not to uphold the wrong which has been committed or charged or to change the grim wheel of justice from punishing the wrongdoer; it is for the purpose of protecting those rights, no matter how meager, that society attributes to each and every person regardless of whether they have committed a crime, and society has decreed that every man is innocent until proven guilty.

The real place of the lawyer is that of being an arm of the police power of the community, a mediator of the court and a protector of the rights of the citizens. As an arm of the police power it is his duty to apprehend crime and to prevent litigations; he is to do everything within his power to help apprehend the criminal and bring him to justice; he must help the court to administer justice irrespective of persons

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