

CODE OF ETHICS -

Maryland Commercial Lenders Association (MCLA)

This Code of Ethics was enacted by the Board of Directors of the Maryland Commercial Lenders Association (MCLA) and is a part of the bylaws. This code is for the use by all the members of MCLA as a means of establishing a uniform standard of conduct for commercial lenders. We adhere to the ethical principles of lending and believe that a fair evaluation and a straightforward, professional, and honest presentation to borrowers is paramount. Further, we believe that lending is the basis for the expansion of our economic system and to that effect we commit individually and collectively to refer transactions that come to us for a loan to another competent lender in the event we are unable to fulfill a borrower's request directly at our lending institution. (Reference to any specific gender is intended to be towards both male and female members.)

ARTICLE ONE:

The Business Banker should keep himself informed as to trends affecting the commercial lending marketplace.

ARTICLE TWO:

The Business Banker shall make a reasonable effort to protect the public and all parties to a transaction against fraud, misrepresentation, or unethical practices in the area of commercial lending.

ARTICLE THREE:

The Business Bankers shall have a responsibility to recommend that clients use attorneys and tax accountants for independent advice on transactions.

ARTICLE FOUR:

The Business Banker should keep in a special bank account, separated from his own funds, monies coming into his possession in trust for other persons.

ARTICLE FIVE:

A Business Banker pledges himself to protect and promote the interests of the bank and banking as a whole. This obligation includes absolute integrity and honesty in dealing with any borrower.

ARTICLE SIX:

The Business Banker will not engage in the practice of disclosing one borrower's loan to another borrower as a sales technique.

ARTICLE SEVEN:

The Business Banker should seek no unfair advantage over his fellow Bankers, and should willingly share with them the lessons of his experience and study.

ARTICLE EIGHT:

The Business Banker should conduct his business to avoid controversies with his fellow Bankers, cooperate with the MCLA and its officers in all matters, including investigation, censure, discipline, or dismissal of members who by their conduct, prejudice their PROFESSIONAL status or the reputation of the MCLA.

ARTICLE NINE:

In the best interest of the MCLA, society, and his associates, the Business Banker should be loyal to his community and active in its work.

ARTICLE TEN:

The Business Banker shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, creed, sex or country of national origin. The Business Banker shall not be a party to any plan or agreement to discriminate against a person or persons on the basis of race, creed, sex or country of national origin.