

Rule 3.4 Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel
(Proposed Rule as Adopted by the Commission on July 5, 2017 – Alternative 1)

A lawyer shall not:

- (a) unlawfully obstruct another party's access to evidence, including a witness, or unlawfully alter, destroy or conceal a document or other material having potential evidentiary value. A lawyer shall not counsel or assist another person* to do any such act;
- (b) suppress any evidence that the lawyer or the lawyer's client has a legal obligation to reveal or to produce;
- (c) falsify evidence, counsel or assist a witness to testify falsely, or offer an inducement to a witness that is prohibited by law;
- (d) directly or indirectly pay, offer to pay, or acquiesce in the payment of compensation to a witness contingent upon the content of the witness's testimony or the outcome of the case. Except where prohibited by law, a lawyer may advance, guarantee, or acquiesce in the payment of:
 - (1) expenses reasonably* incurred by a witness in attending or testifying;
 - (2) reasonable* compensation to a witness for loss of time in attending or testifying; or
 - (3) a reasonable* fee for the professional services of an expert witness;
- (e) advise or directly or indirectly cause a person* to secrete himself or herself or to leave the jurisdiction of a tribunal* for the purpose of making that person* unavailable as a witness therein;
- (f) subpoena a lawyer in any civil or criminal proceeding, including grand jury proceedings, to present evidence about a current or former client unless the lawyer seeking the subpoena reasonably believes: ^{*}
 - (1) the information sought is not protected from disclosure by any applicable privilege or work product protection;
 - (2) the evidence sought is [essential / reasonably necessary][⊕] to the successful completion of an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution, or is [essential/reasonably necessary][⊕] to support the claim or defense asserted in an ongoing civil investigation or proceeding; and

[⊕] This language is bracketed to indicate that comment is sought on which term (“essential” or “reasonably necessary”) the public believes is appropriate for this rule.

- (3) there is no other [feasible / reasonable][∅] alternative to obtain the information;
- (g) knowingly* disobey an obligation under the rules of a tribunal* except for an open refusal based on an assertion that no valid obligation exists; or
- (h) in trial, assert personal knowledge of facts in issue except when testifying as a witness, or state a personal opinion as to the guilt or innocence of an accused.

Comment

[1] Paragraph (a) applies to evidentiary material generally, including computerized information. It is a criminal offense to destroy material for purpose of impairing its availability in a pending proceeding or one whose commencement can be foreseen. See, e.g., Penal Code § 135; 18 United States Code §§ 1501-1520. Falsifying evidence is also generally a criminal offense. See, e.g., Penal Code § 132; 18 United States Code § 1519. Applicable law may permit a lawyer to take temporary possession of physical evidence of client crimes for the purpose of conducting a limited examination that will not alter or destroy material characteristics of the evidence. Applicable law may require a lawyer to turn evidence over to the police or other prosecuting authorities, depending on the circumstances. See *People v. Lee* (1970) 3 Cal.App.3d 514, 526 [83 Cal.Rptr. 715]; *People v. Meredith* (1981) 29 Cal.3d 682 [175 Cal.Rptr. 612].

[2] Paragraph (f) is intended to limit the issuance of lawyer subpoenas in criminal or other proceedings to those situations in which there is a genuine need to intrude into the client-lawyer relationship. (See generally, *Carehouse Convalescent Hosp. v. Superior Court* (2006) 143 Cal.App.4th 1558 [50 Cal.Rptr.3d 129]; *Spectra Physics, Inc. v. Superior Court* (1988) 198 Cal.App.3d 1487 [244 Cal.Rptr. 258].)

[3] A violation of a civil or criminal discovery rule or statute does not by itself establish a violation of this rule.

[∅] This language is bracketed to indicate that comment is sought on which term (“feasible” or “reasonable”) the public believes is appropriate for this rule.

**Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor
(Proposed Rule as Adopted by the Commission on July 5, 2017 – Alternative 2)**

The prosecutor in a criminal case shall:

- (a) not institute or continue to prosecute a charge that the prosecutor knows* is not supported by probable cause;
- (b) make reasonable* efforts to assure that the accused has been advised of the right to, and the procedure for obtaining, counsel and has been given reasonable* opportunity to obtain counsel;
- (c) not seek to obtain from an unrepresented accused a waiver of important pretrial rights unless the tribunal* has approved the appearance of the accused in propria persona;
- (d) *Reserved*.⁺
- (e) not subpoena a lawyer in a grand jury or other criminal proceeding to present evidence about a current or former client unless the prosecutor reasonably believes:
 - (1) the information sought is not protected from disclosure by any applicable privilege or work product protection;
 - (2) the evidence sought is [essential/reasonably necessary][⊕] to the successful completion of an ongoing investigation or prosecution; and
 - (3) there is no other [feasible/reasonable][⊖] alternative to obtain the information; and
- (f) exercise reasonable* care to prevent persons* under the supervision or direction of the prosecutor, including investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees or other persons* assisting or associated with the prosecutor in a criminal case from making an extrajudicial statement that the prosecutor would be prohibited from making under rule 3.6.
- (g) When a prosecutor knows* of new, credible and material evidence creating a reasonable* likelihood that a convicted defendant did not commit an offense of which the defendant was convicted, the prosecutor shall:

⁺ The parts of this rule designated as “*Reserved*” (paragraph (D) and Comments [3] and [4]) are the subject of pending consideration by the State Bar and the Supreme Court of California.

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[⊖] This language is bracketed to indicate that comment is sought on which term (“feasible” or “reasonable”) the public believes is appropriate for this rule.

- (1) promptly disclose that evidence to an appropriate court or authority, and
 - (2) if the conviction was obtained in the prosecutor's jurisdiction,
 - (i) promptly disclose that evidence to the defendant unless a court authorizes delay, and
 - (ii) undertake further investigation, or make reasonable* efforts to cause an investigation, to determine whether the defendant was convicted of an offense that the defendant did not commit.
- (h) When a prosecutor knows* of clear and convincing evidence establishing that a defendant in the prosecutor's jurisdiction was convicted of an offense that the defendant did not commit, the prosecutor shall seek to remedy the conviction.

Discussion

[1] A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice, that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence, and that special precautions are taken to prevent and to rectify the conviction of innocent persons.* Rule 3.8 is intended to achieve those results. All lawyers in government service remain bound by rules 3.1 and 3.4.

[2] Paragraph (c) does not forbid the lawful questioning of an uncharged suspect who has knowingly* waived the right to counsel and the right to remain silent. Paragraph (c) also does not forbid prosecutors from seeking from an unrepresented accused a reasonable* waiver of time for initial appearance or preliminary hearing as a means of facilitating the accused's voluntary cooperation in an ongoing law enforcement investigation.

[3] *Reserved.*⁺

[4] *Reserved.*⁺

[5] Paragraph (f) supplements rule 3.6, which prohibits extrajudicial statements that have a substantial* likelihood of prejudicing an adjudicatory proceeding. Paragraph (f) is not intended to restrict the statements which a prosecutor may make which comply with rule 3.6(b) or 3.6(c).

[6] Prosecutors have a duty to supervise the work of subordinate lawyers and nonlawyer employees or agents. (See rules 5.1 and 5.3.) Ordinarily, the reasonable* care standard of paragraph (f) will be satisfied if the prosecutor issues the appropriate cautions to law enforcement personnel and other relevant individuals.

[7] When a prosecutor knows* of new, credible and material evidence creating a reasonable* likelihood that a person* outside the prosecutor's jurisdiction was convicted of a crime that the person* did not commit, paragraph (g) requires prompt disclosure to

the court or other appropriate authority, such as the chief prosecutor of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred. If the conviction was obtained in the prosecutor's jurisdiction, paragraph (g) requires the prosecutor to examine the evidence and undertake further investigation to determine whether the defendant is in fact innocent or make reasonable* efforts to cause another appropriate authority to undertake the necessary investigation, and to promptly disclose the evidence to the court and, absent court authorized delay, to the defendant. Disclosure to a represented defendant must be made through the defendant's counsel, and, in the case of an unrepresented defendant, would ordinarily be accompanied by a request to a court for the appointment of counsel to assist the defendant in taking such legal measures as may be appropriate. (See rule 4.2.)

[8] Under paragraph (h), once the prosecutor knows* of clear and convincing evidence that the defendant was convicted of an offense that the defendant did not commit, the prosecutor must seek to remedy the conviction. Depending upon the circumstances, steps to remedy the conviction could include disclosure of the evidence to the defendant, requesting that the court appoint counsel for an unrepresented indigent defendant and, where appropriate, notifying the court that the prosecutor has knowledge that the defendant did not commit the offense of which the defendant was convicted.

[9] A prosecutor's independent judgment, made in good faith, that the new evidence is not of such nature as to trigger the obligations of paragraphs (g) and (h), though subsequently determined to have been erroneous, does not constitute a violation of this rule.

**Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor
(Proposed Rule as Adopted by the Commission on July 5, 2017 – Alternative 3)**

The prosecutor in a criminal case shall:

- (a) not institute or continue to prosecute a charge that the prosecutor knows* is not supported by probable cause;
- (b) make reasonable* efforts to assure that the accused has been advised of the right to, and the procedure for obtaining, counsel and has been given reasonable* opportunity to obtain counsel;
- (c) not seek to obtain from an unrepresented accused a waiver of important pretrial rights unless the tribunal* has approved the appearance of the accused in propria persona;
- (d) *Reserved*.⁺
- (e) not subpoena a lawyer in a grand jury or other criminal proceeding to present evidence about a current or former client represented by the lawyer in a criminal matter unless the prosecutor reasonably believes:*
 - (1) the information sought is not protected from disclosure by any applicable privilege or work product protection;
 - (2) the evidence sought is [essential/reasonably necessary][⊕] to the successful completion of an ongoing investigation or prosecution; and
 - (3) there is no other [feasible/reasonable][⊖] alternative to obtain the information; and
- (f) exercise reasonable* care to prevent persons* under the supervision or direction of the prosecutor, including investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees or other persons* assisting or associated with the prosecutor in a criminal case from making an extrajudicial statement that the prosecutor would be prohibited from making under rule 3.6.
- (g) When a prosecutor knows* of new, credible and material evidence creating a reasonable* likelihood that a convicted defendant did not commit an offense of which the defendant was convicted, the prosecutor shall:

⁺ The parts of this rule designated as “*Reserved*” (paragraph (D) and Comments [3] and [4]) are the subject of pending consideration by the State Bar and the Supreme Court of California.

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- (1) promptly disclose that evidence to an appropriate court or authority, and
 - (2) if the conviction was obtained in the prosecutor's jurisdiction,
 - (i) promptly disclose that evidence to the defendant unless a court authorizes delay, and
 - (ii) undertake further investigation, or make reasonable* efforts to cause an investigation, to determine whether the defendant was convicted of an offense that the defendant did not commit.
- (h) When a prosecutor knows* of clear and convincing evidence establishing that a defendant in the prosecutor's jurisdiction was convicted of an offense that the defendant did not commit, the prosecutor shall seek to remedy the conviction.

Discussion

[1] A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice, that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence, and that special precautions are taken to prevent and to rectify the conviction of innocent persons.* Rule 3.8 is intended to achieve those results. All lawyers in government service remain bound by rules 3.1 and 3.4.

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the court or other appropriate authority, such as the chief prosecutor of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred. If the conviction was obtained in the prosecutor's jurisdiction, paragraph (g) requires the prosecutor to examine the evidence and undertake further investigation to determine whether the defendant is in fact innocent or make reasonable* efforts to cause another appropriate authority to undertake the necessary investigation, and to promptly disclose the evidence to the court and, absent court authorized delay, to the defendant. Disclosure to a represented defendant must be made through the defendant's counsel, and, in the case of an unrepresented defendant, would ordinarily be accompanied by a request to a court for the appointment of counsel to assist the defendant in taking such legal measures as may be appropriate. (See rule 4.2.)

[8] Under paragraph (h), once the prosecutor knows* of clear and convincing evidence that the defendant was convicted of an offense that the defendant did not commit, the prosecutor must seek to remedy the conviction. Depending upon the circumstances, steps to remedy the conviction could include disclosure of the evidence to the defendant, requesting that the court appoint counsel for an unrepresented indigent defendant and, where appropriate, notifying the court that the prosecutor has knowledge that the defendant did not commit the offense of which the defendant was convicted.

[9] A prosecutor's independent judgment, made in good faith, that the new evidence is not of such nature as to trigger the obligations of paragraphs (g) and (h), though subsequently determined to have been erroneous, does not constitute a violation of this rule.