groups—everyone and everything from the American Bar Association to the Federalist Society. Whom do we honor and praise and why, and whom you don't.

Wilkins: How can institutions—whether a law school or a law firm—be good people who are also good professionals and good citizens?

David B. Wilkins: One thing that comes through in how you describe professional identity formation is the importance of the professional ethicist. We've had a lot of rhetoric about it recently, but I think one of the things that is hard for us to get past is the fact that the professional ethicist is going to be very different from the person we would call the public ethicist. The public ethicist is the person who is going to be publicizing issues of public concern. The professional ethicist is going to be much more focused on the profession itself.

But it's complicated. You've got people who do public interest law who are very unethical. You've got people who are very ethical who are doing public interest law. It's not just a question of whether the person is ethical or not; it's a question of whether the person is doing ethical things.

The more a profession becomes like a business, the more dominant are the neoliberal values of the market. If I were writing an equation, I would say the more business-like a profession becomes, the more we are going to learn to do this in law.

Speaker's Corner: What do you mean by the 'professional ethicist'? What do you mean by the 'public ethicist'?

David B. Wilkins: Professional ethicists are going to be people who are more focused on the profession itself. They're going to be more interested in the professional ethicist's code of ethics and how that code of ethics is going to affect the profession as a whole. Public ethicists are going to be more interested in the profession in terms of the public sphere. They're going to be interested in the role that the profession plays in society and how the profession is going to affect the public sphere.

We've had a lot of rhetoric about it recently, but I think one of the things that is hard for us to get past is the fact that the professional ethicist is going to be very different from the person we would call the public ethicist. The public ethicist is the person who is going to be publicizing issues of public concern. The professional ethicist is going to be much more focused on the profession itself.

David B. Wilkins: How can institutions—whether a law school or a law firm—be good people who are also good professionals and good citizens?

David B. Wilkins: That said, people don't show up at law school as blank slates. The morality that you bring with you to law school matters. And it's not just the morality that you bring with you to law school; it's the morality that you bring with you to law firm.

Moreover, the world is constantly changing. What it meant to be an ethical journalist in the Walter Cronkite era is not what it means to be an ethical journalist today. And what it meant to be an ethical lawyer in the Atticus Finch era is not what it means to be an ethical lawyer today.

In the News: