LAW AND ETHICS

Law are rules and regulations set up by authorities or governing authority to govern human behaviour. Laws are created with the intent to maintain social order and peace in the society and provide protection for all citizens.

Ethics are moral values and principles that are adapted socially from the surroundings. Ethics are made to assist people decide what is right or wrong. The term ethics originates from the Greek word 'ethos' that means custom, character or disposition.

Differences

Law are rules and regulations that carry penalties for violating them while ethics does not result in punishments or penalties.

Laws are a must to be followed while ethics are values to be considered to be a positive attitude to follow.

Laws are made from ethics as guiding principle while ethics are moral values for oneself in the society.

Laws is restrictive. That is to say that it is specific to a state or country and only applicable there but ethics is mostly is applicable universally

Religion tend to have a direct impact on ethics while it may or may not have an impact on laws.

The courts decide which law has being violated whereas society judges someone based on ethical issues.

Laws create a legal binding while ethics do not have a binding on anything.

Laws are in a written document whereas ethics do not.

Laws govern the society as a whole whereas ethics governs individual behaviour and some professional conduct.

Laws are made by judicial authorities, legislature or lawyers whereas ethics are made by philosophers, religious leaders or elders versed with social norms.

Similarities

The two have similarities in that both aim at creating a society with order.

They aim to guide people on how to behave in a manner that benefits themselves and others.

They both regulate the conduct and behaviour of individuals in society.

They both mediate inter- personal relationships and transactions with others.

They are both aimed at improving the quality of life for everyone in society.

Ethics is the aspect of philosophy that address questions of human behaviour e.g. for health professionals the code of conduct or code of ethics determine the acceptable behaviour for that profession. Ethics and law are blended in the common standards of professional conduct. Professional conduct that constitutes a breach of ethics also constitutes a violation of law.

Lying or betraying the confidence of another is not illegal but unethical this show some distinctions between law and ethics. Laws can be said to codified ethical values because they draw power from the society itself.