1.16.1. Emperors Valentinian, Theodosius and Arcadius to the Senate.

Although the decree of the Senate has perpetual validity per se, yet we also assert that to be true of our laws,¹ adding that if anyone shall attempt, by special supplication, to solicit a rescript that it be permitted him to transgress the law, he shall be fined to the extent of a third part of his property, condemned for the crime of corrupt solicitation (ambitus), and remain tainted with infamy.

Given at Heraclea July 26 (384).

¹ [Blume] “tamen etiam nostris legibus idem prosequimur”—Otto, Shilling and Sintennis translate: “Still we assert the same thing of our laws.” S. P. Scott translates it: “We, nevertheless, support it by our laws.” 6 [12] Scott 89. A particular senate decree (not mentioned) was evidently considered here, and the emperor states that the imperial laws are to the same effect. This statement was then transformed into a general rule by the compilers.