



Basics of Legal Ethics

Course Description

This course looks at the responsibilities of legal professionals to defend their clients and to preserve the integrity of the justice system. While the course is mainly based on rules applicable to attorneys, non-attorney legal professionals who work with attorneys are also indirectly bound by them. A non-attorney misfeasance can bring severe consequences for supervising attorneys and organizations.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain what the Model Rules of Professional Conduct are and why they are the most important source of the rules governing lawyers across the country;
- Analyze the attorney-client relationship, how it is formed, and the duties attorneys owe to their clients;
- Describe the attorney's duties to each of: the court, the opposing parties, other unrepresented parties, and nonparties to the litigation;
- Utilize the conflict of interest rules to recognize situations that could cause conflicting loyalties;
- Navigate the ethical issues related to the business of law. Articulate ethical versus non-ethical practices relating to: advertising, soliciting clients, fee structures, and fee-splitting between attorneys and between attorneys and non-attorneys.

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click "Take the Final Exam" and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials. Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam, so make sure to watch the case studies before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Video

This video provides background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

The Government’s Duty to Compensate People Who Are Wrongfully Imprisoned
<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/the-governments-duty-to-compensate-people-who-are-wrongfully-imprisoned/>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Read the following sections of “Foundations of Law” courseware:

Professional Responsibility & Legal Ethics (all subchapters)

- **Introduction to the Regulation of the Legal Profession**

- **Duties to the Client and Client's Rights**
- **Duties to Others**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Conflicts of Interest**
- **"Lawyering"**
- **Judges, Jurors, Witnesses, and Courtroom Decorum**

Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Basics of Legal Ethics Course Overview Video

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/basics-legal-ethics>

Regulation of the Legal Profession - Module 1 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/regulation-of-the-legal-profession-module-1-of-5>

The Attorney-Client Relationship - Module 2 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/the-attorney-client-relationship-module-2-of-5>

Duties to Attorneys, the Court, and Other Parties - Module 3 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/duties-to-attorneys-the-court-and-other-parties-module-3-of-5>

Conflicts of Interest - Module 4 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/conflicts-of-interest-module-4-of-5>

The Business of Law - Module 5 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/the-business-of-law-module-5-of-5>

Case Study: In re Cole

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-in-re-cole>

Case Study: In re Conduct of Conry

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-in-re-conduct-of-conry>