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LEG 184T.01: Legal Ethics

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**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Number and Title: U 184T Legal Ethics

Fall Semester Calendar 2006

Meeting Times: Monday and Wednesday: 1:10 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT STATEMENT: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

INSTRUCTOR: Thomas Stanton. I can be reached at 243-7850 or Tom.Stanton@umontana.edu. My office is located in the Northeast corner of the Business Administration building, East Campus. Office hours are before, between and after classes. (See schedule on office door).

REQUIRED TEXT:

Ethics and Professional Responsibility for Legal Assistants, 4th Ed.

Author: Therese A. Cannon

Publisher: Aspen Law & Business (Aspen Publishers, Inc.)

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Model Rules of Professional Conduct

Model Code of Professional Responsibility and Code of Judicial Conduct

As announced and/or distributed by the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to ethics for the legal assistant, including confidentiality, legal assistant-attorney relationship, fee arrangements, Code of Professional Conduct, attorney-client privilege, fiduciary responsibilities, and public service.

COURSE OUTLINE: This outline is intended to provide a general guide to progress through the course. Each chapter will take two days of discussion. The first day will cover the ethical concepts gathered for review and the second day will focus on the cases interpreting the concepts. **Chapters listed are to have been read by the date identified.**

Week 1

Introduction and Discussion of Syllabus.

Case reading skills, various ethics reporters and decisions

Week 2

Discussion: Chapter 1, Regulation of Lawyers

*Monday, September 4- Holiday, Labor day

Week 3

Discussion: Chapter 1 cases

Discussion: Chapter 2, Ethical Guidelines and Regulation of Legal Assistants

Week 4

Chapter 2 cases

Chapter 3, Unauthorized Practice of Law

Week 5

Discussion: Chapter 3 cases

Discussion: Chapter 4, Confidentiality

Week 6

Discussion: Chapter 4 cases

Discussion: Chapter 5, Conflicts of Interest

Week 7

Monday October 9-No Class; Instructor Absence

Discussion: Chapter 5 cases

Week 8

Review Chapters 1 through 5 for Mid-Term Exam

Mid-Term Examination

Week 9

Discussion: Chapter 6, Advertising and Solicitation

Review of Mid-Term Examination

Week 10

Discussion: Chapter 6 cases
Chapter 7, Fees and Client Funds

Week 11

Discussion: Chapter 7 cases
Discussion: Chapter 8, Competence

Week 12

Discussion: Chapter 8 cases
Discussion: Chapter 9, Special Issues in Advocacy

Week 13

Catch-up Day

Wednesday, November 22-No Class; Thanksgiving

Week 14

Discussion: Chapter 9 cases
Discussion: Chapters 10, Professionalism

Week 15

Chapter 10 cases
Review for Final Exam

Week 16

Final Exam, per U.M./C.O.T. Final Schedule

GRADING

Scale:

- A: 100-93%
- B: 92-85%
- C: 84-77%
- D: 76-70%
- F: below 70%

Participation: Every student is expected to participate and/or be prepared to participate in class discussions. Accordingly, class participation can positively or negatively affect the student's grade.

Exams: Count. for 80 % of final grade.

Quizzes, Projects and/or Class Participation: Count for 20 % of final grade. Quizzes may be given at any time; announced or unannounced. Some of the quizzes may be graded in class for no value. Some of the quizzes will be collected and graded for value toward final grade.

Make up quizzes may be given at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Absences: The instructor reserves the right to lower grades for excessive absences.

Extra Credit: Opportunities may arise where point credit can be given for independent projects as developed between student and instructor.

Other: If any student requires special consideration for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to discuss the matter prior to any situation that might give rise to the special consideration requested.

The instructor reserves the right to alter or amend any part of this proposed outline at any time during the semester.