



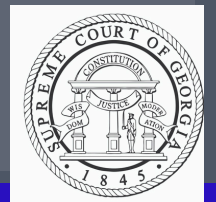
Georgia State
University®

Atlanta

COLLEGE
OF LAW

August 12, 2025

Student Materials



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STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM
& CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON
PROFESSIONALISM

#Orientation2025



COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM

**Georgia State University College of Law
Orientation on Professionalism**

**August 12, 2025
4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

LAW STUDENT AGENDA

3:45 – 4:15	Student Check-In.....	Catherin C. Henson Atrium
4:15 – 4:30	Welcome	Monique McCarthy Assistant Dean of Admission Courtney Anderson Dean and Professor of Law And Jazmin Mejia, Class of 2026 President, Student Bar Association
4:30 – 5:15	Professionalism at GSU.....	Kenny Tatum Director, Career Services
5:15 – 5:30	Transition to Breakout Groups	Various Rooms
5:30 – 7:00	Professionalism Breakout Group Sessions	Various Rooms
7:00 – 7:15	Transition for Administration of Professionalism Oath	Ceremonial Courtroom
7:15 – 7:30	Administration of the Professionalism Oath and Honor Code Pledge.....	The Honorable Andrew A. Pinson Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
7:30 – 8:30	Reception for Students and Group Leaders	Salons

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

August 9, 2022

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Supreme Court of Georgia Advisor
The Honorable Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Staff

Ms. Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

Dear Georgia State University College of Law Students:

Congratulations as you begin your law school career! We are pleased you are participating in the Law School Orientation on Professionalism. This is the 30th year that the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the Committee on Professionalism of the State Bar of Georgia have conducted this program at every law school in Georgia. The heart of the Professionalism Orientation is the breakout session, during which one of the documents you will discuss is A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism. This document is intended for use by Georgia's practicing lawyers and judges, but as you will discover during your breakout sessions, the principles embodied in it have many applications to you as a law student. In 1992, the Supreme Court of Georgia explained that it was our "hope that Georgia's lawyers, judges, and legal educators will use the . . . ideals [set forth in A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism] to reexamine the justifications of the practice of law in our society and to consider the implications of those justifications for their conduct."

I truly believe that judges and lawyers need to emphasize the importance of professionalism to law students from the very start of their legal careers to help you avoid disciplinary issues but even more to teach that you are part of a professional community. You are now a member of your law school community, and you will eventually become a member of the bar. You will often interact with one another in stressful, chaotic environments that are designed to be adversarial. But you should never put aside the moral compass you brought with you to law school or forget that we are all colleagues in a noble profession. For our profession to thrive, we must remember that the way in which we resolve disputes defines part of the character of our society and we should act accordingly.

I hope that you will have interesting and thought-provoking discussions during your Professionalism Orientation, and I send you my best wishes as you begin your legal career.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Boggs
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia and
Chair, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

MPB/kg



August 12, 2025

Dear Georgia State University College of Law Students:

The State Bar of Georgia welcomes you to Georgia's legal community! During your law school orientations on professionalism, you will discover that as a lawyer, you have responsibilities not only to your clients, but to many other stakeholders as well. These other stakeholders include the profession itself and the public. Beginning with your first moments as a law student, it is important that you begin embodying the oath you will take once you become a practicing lawyer – to justly and uprightly conduct yourselves as members of learned profession and to support and defend the constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia. You will find a copy of the Attorney's Oath in your written professionalism materials. I encourage you to read and reflect on this oath now as your journey in this profession begins today.

During my year as President of the State Bar of Georgia, I am committed to advancing the Bar's mission to foster among our members the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of law. I also hope during my Bar year to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of our constitution and its role in sustaining the rule of law. This also is something with which you can assist me as a law school student. I encourage you to get involved in your law school, your community, and in civic organizations – even as a law student. Getting involved is not only consistent with our professionalism aspirations as lawyers, but it is also good for your legal career. As part of your involvement, consider ways that you can promote the public's understanding of our constitution, help instill public trust and confidence in our legal system, and educate the public about the rule of law. I also encourage you to begin getting to know your legal colleagues. As a law student, you are welcome to participate in Bar activities as a Student Associate Member of the State Bar of Georgia. This membership enables you to receive State Bar publications and to attend State Bar meetings, where you can interact with the leaders of Georgia's legal community. Your application for this membership is included in your written professionalism materials.

Approach your academic and professional careers with a dedication to professionalism. This means doing more than just what is required by a code of ethics, such as your school's honor code. Professionalism encompasses what is expected of lawyers by both the public and the traditions of the legal profession itself; not only competence and civility, but also service – to clients, the community, the public, and justice itself. These are not just principles by which lawyers can live. They are also principles that you as law students can strive to embrace. Additionally, please be mindful to take care of yourself and to consider the welfare of others. Your school has various resources to help you and your classmates to take care of your mental health. Don't be afraid to ask for help for yourself or for others when (not if) it is needed. As lawyers, we cannot serve others, if we ourselves are not well. Finally, keep in mind that being a lawyer is a privilege, not simply a means to the end of making a living. Protect that privilege by promoting professionalism through duty and service.

Congratulations and best wishes for your success as law students and lawyers.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Twyman
President, State Bar of Georgia

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COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM

TO: Law Students

FROM: Carlos R. Vilela
Chair, Committee on Professionalism, State Bar of Georgia

DATE: August 2025

RE: Law School Orientation on Professionalism Overview

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism is charged by the Supreme Court of Georgia with ensuring that the practice of law in this state remains a high calling, enlisted in the service not only of clients, but also of the public good. The State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism focuses the energy and talents of members of the State Bar on the continuing professionalism movement launched in 1989 by the Supreme Court of Georgia. An important part of the Professionalism Committee's on-going effort is the Orientations on Professionalism at each of Georgia's law schools. With the support of the law schools, the Professionalism Committee will conduct a Professionalism session as part of your law school orientation. This is the 33rd year of these programs.

The Orientation on Professionalism will begin with brief remarks by a lawyer or judge, followed by small group discussions of issues raised in the attached hypotheticals. Each group will be composed of a small group of students and one to three group leaders who will be assigned to your group from among the Georgia lawyers and judges who have volunteered and been selected to participate in the Orientation.

As the enclosed instructions state, you will only need the materials included in this packet to prepare for the breakout sessions. Research is neither necessary nor appropriate, however you must be familiar with the basic fact situations of the hypotheticals. We hope that you will find the group discussions to be helpful and instructive as you begin your careers in the legal profession.

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2025 LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATION PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

What is the Law School Orientation on Professionalism Program?

Each year, every law school in Georgia partners with the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism to conduct a program that orients incoming students (new, transfer, visiting) to professionalism. The program engages students in interactive discussions – using hypothetical situations relating to the life of a law student – that are facilitated by Group Leaders who are judges and lawyers.

The message of this program to law students is the same as the message of Professionalism Continuing Legal Education required of all active members of the State Bar of Georgia: that the function of lawyers is to assist clients in the proper use of the legal system and to balance assistance to clients with a lawyer's other roles and responsibilities to the courts, to opposing counsel, to other colleagues in the legal profession, to the broader community, to the justice system and to the rule of law. When acting as advocate for clients, the lawyer represents the client's interests to others in a vigorous and committed manner, while at the same time remaining conscious of duties to other lawyers, the legal system, and the community in general.

What Should You Do Before the Orientation?

Prior to the orientation session on professionalism, you should:

1. **Download this entire "Student Materials" packet to an electronic device (such as a cell telephone, tablet or laptop) that you plan to bring with you to the orientation. If you want a hard copy of the Student Materials, please print it and bring it with you.**
2. Read over the hypotheticals.
3. Review *A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, your law school's honor code excerpts, the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct related to Bar Admissions and any other Rules provided in these materials. **Additional research is neither necessary nor appropriate.**
4. Give some thought to what issues arise in each situation and which portions of *A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, or your law school's honor code excerpt might apply to each hypothetical situation; and
5. Consider what sorts of decisions you would make given the facts as written. Be prepared to discuss which portions of *A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, or your law school's honor code excerpt might apply, and why you would make a particular decision or pursue a particular course of action.

What Should You Expect to Get From the Discussions?

These hypothetical situations are intended to expose you to some of the challenges you may encounter as you begin your professional career – as a law student. The goal of the group discussions is **not** to have you approach these situations with the mind-set of a lawyer who is versed in the written codes, rules and aspirations of the profession and makes his or her decisions accordingly. **The purpose of these problems is to stimulate thought and discussion about professionalism and what it means to be a “professional.”** It is also to show, at the very outset of your legal career, how the Georgia legal community’s aspirational goals for the profession apply to you as a law student. In all that you do, you should begin to think about what you want your professional identity to be and how professionalism applies to you in your everyday life as a law student.

What Is the Difference Between “Ethics” and “Professionalism”?

To put these discussions in context, it is important for you to be aware of the common understanding among the lawyers and judges of Georgia of the terms *ethics* and *professionalism*. As you begin law school, the word *ethics* probably connotes upright, moral behavior. To lawyers, however, the connotation is in reference to the old codes of ethics that governed lawyer conduct. The old Canons of Ethics evolved into the *Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct* adopted by the Supreme Court of Georgia to govern the practice of law. Thus, to lawyers, the word *ethics* means the rules or laws of lawyering. **These Rules establish the minimum requirements of conduct for members of the State Bar of Georgia.** *Professionalism*, by contrast, refers to **the attitudes and conduct that rise above this minimum standard.** It embodies the values of competence, character, civility, commitment to the rule of law, to the lawyer’s role as an officer of the court, and to public and community service. Professionalism is a commitment to carrying out both the letter and spirit of the law.

What Else Should You Bring to The Discussions?

We ask that all you bring to the discussions of these hypotheticals are your life experience and your own values, whatever they may be. We are not asking for any professional knowledge or research. Most important, do not ignore your "gut reaction," i.e., how these situations make you feel. That is part of the equation, too.

Your professional identity will take shape in many ways over the years as you experience your life as lawyer. Let your journey begin now.



Student's Panther I.D. # _____

Georgia State University College of Law Professionalism Oath

As I begin the study of law at Georgia State University College of Law, I understand that I am both joining an academic community and embarking on a professional career. I acknowledge that becoming a lawyer is a privilege that comes with responsibilities.

To faculty and staff, I offer integrity, honesty, and respect. I will be self-directed in my studies and commit to giving my best effort and honest performance on every assignment and examination. I will also conduct myself with dignity and in ways that reflect positively on me and the law school.

To my fellow classmates, I offer courtesy, civility, respect, and inclusion. I will strive to promote an atmosphere of collegiality that I will carry forward into my professional career.

To my future clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust.

To the profession and the public, I offer service. I will seek opportunities to provide leadership, serve my community, engage in pro bono work, and bring access to justice for all.

This pledge I take freely and upon my honor.

Signature _____ Date _____

1

A LAWYER'S CREED



2 **To my clients**, I offer faithfulness, competence,
3 diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you
4 as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your
5 trust.

6 **To the opposing parties and their counsel**, I offer
7 fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation
8 and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified
9 one.

10 **To the courts**, and other tribunals, and to those who
11 assist them, I offer respect, candor, and courtesy. I will
12 strive to do honor to the search for justice.

13 **To my colleagues in the practice of law**, I offer
14 concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our
15 association a professional friendship.

16 **To the profession**, I offer assistance. I will strive to
17 keep our business a profession and our profession a calling
18 in the spirit of public service.

19 **To the public** and our systems of justice, I offer
20 service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal
21 system, to make the law and our legal system available to
22 all, and to seek the common good through the
23 representation of my clients.

24 **ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT ON PROFESSIONALISM**

25 The Court believes there are unfortunate trends of commercialization and loss of professional
26 community in the current practice of law. These trends are manifested in an undue emphasis on the
27 financial rewards of practice, a lack of courtesy and civility among members of our profession, a lack
28 of respect for the judiciary and for our systems of justice, and a lack of regard for others and for the
29 common good. As a community of professionals, we should strive to make the internal rewards of
30 service, craft, and character, and not the external reward of financial gain, the primary rewards of the
31 practice of law. In our practices we should remember that the primary justification for who we are
32 and what we do is the common good we can achieve through the faithful representation of people
33 who desire to resolve their disputes in a peaceful manner and to prevent future disputes. We should
34 remember, and we should help our clients remember, that the way in which our clients resolve their
35 disputes defines part of the character of our society and we should act accordingly.

36 As professionals, we need aspirational ideals to help bind us together in a professional
37 community. Accordingly, the Court issues the following Aspirational Statement setting forth general
38 and specific aspirational ideals of our profession. This statement is a beginning list of the ideals of
39 our profession. It is primarily illustrative. Our purpose is not to regulate, and certainly not to
40 provide a basis for discipline, but rather to assist the Bar's efforts to maintain a professionalism that
41 can stand against the negative trends of commercialization and loss of community. It is the Court's
42 hope that Georgia's lawyers, judges, and legal educators will use the following aspirational ideals
43 to reexamine the justifications of the practice of law in our society and to consider the implications
44 of those justifications for their conduct. The Court feels that enhancement of professionalism can
45 be best brought about by the cooperative efforts of the organized bar, the courts, and the law schools
46 with each group working independently, but also jointly in that effort.

*Entered by Order of Supreme Court of Georgia, October 9, 1992, nunc pro tunc July 3, 1990; Part IX of the
Rules and Regulations of the State Bar of Georgia, as amended September 10, 2003 and April 26, 2013*

47

GENERAL ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS

48 As a lawyer, I will aspire:

49 (a) To put fidelity to clients and, through clients, to the common good, before selfish
50 interests.

51 (b) To model for others, and particularly for my clients, the respect due to those we call
52 upon to resolve our disputes and the regard due to all participants in our dispute
53 resolution processes.

54 (c) To avoid all forms of wrongful discrimination in all of my activities including
55 discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, handicap, veteran status, or
56 national origin. The social goals of equality and fairness will be personal goals for
57 me.

58 (d) To preserve and improve the law, the legal system, and other dispute resolution
59 processes as instruments for the common good.

60 (e) To make the law, the legal system, and other dispute resolution processes available
61 to all.

62 (f) To practice with a personal commitment to the rules governing our profession and
63 to encourage others to do the same.

64 (g) To preserve the dignity and the integrity of our profession by my conduct. The
65 dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained
66 by each successive generation of lawyers.

67 (h) To achieve the excellence of our craft, especially those that permit me to be the moral
68 voice of clients to the public in advocacy while being the moral voice of the public
69 to clients in counseling. Good lawyering should be a moral achievement for both the
70 lawyer and the client.

71 (i) To practice law not as a business, but as a calling in the spirit of public service.

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Rules and Regulations of the State Bar of Georgia, as amended September 10, 2003 and April 26, 2013*

72

SPECIFIC ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS

73 **As to clients**, I will aspire:

74 (a) To expeditious and economical achievement of all client objectives.

75 (b) To fully informed client decision-making. As a professional, I should:

76 (1) Counsel clients about all forms of dispute resolution;

77 (2) Counsel clients about the value of cooperation as a means towards the
78 productive resolution of disputes;

79 (3) Maintain the sympathetic detachment that permits objective and independent
80 advice to clients;

81 (4) Communicate promptly and clearly with clients; and,

82 (5) Reach clear agreements with clients concerning the nature of the
83 representation.

84 (c) To fair and equitable fee agreements. As a professional, I should:

85 (1) Discuss alternative methods of charging fees with all clients;

86 (2) Offer fee arrangements that reflect the true value of the services rendered;

87 (3) Reach agreements with clients as early in the relationship as possible;

88 (4) Determine the amount of fees by consideration of many factors and not just
89 time spent by the attorney;

90 (5) Provide written agreements as to all fee arrangements; and

91 (6) Resolve all fee disputes through the arbitration methods provided by the State
92 Bar of Georgia.

93 (d) To comply with the obligations of confidentiality and the avoidance of conflicting
94 loyalties in a manner designed to achieve the fidelity to clients that is the purpose of
95 these obligations.

96 **As to opposing parties and their counsel**, I will aspire:

97 (a) To cooperate with opposing counsel in a manner consistent with the competent
98 representation of all parties. As a professional, I should:

99 (1) Notify opposing counsel in a timely fashion of any cancelled appearance;

100 (2) Grant reasonable requests for extensions or scheduling changes; and,

101 (3) Consult with opposing counsel in the scheduling of appearances, meetings,
102 and depositions.

103 (b) To treat opposing counsel in a manner consistent with his or her professional
104 obligations and consistent with the dignity of the search for justice. As a
105 professional, I should:

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- 106 (1) Not serve motions or pleadings in such a manner or at such a time as to
107 preclude opportunity for a competent response;
108 (2) Be courteous and civil in all communications;
109 (3) Respond promptly to all requests by opposing counsel;
110 (4) Avoid rudeness and other acts of disrespect in all meetings including
111 depositions and negotiations;
112 (5) Prepare documents that accurately reflect the agreement of all parties; and
113 (6) Clearly identify all changes made in documents submitted by opposing
114 counsel for review.

115 **As to the courts, other tribunals, and to those who assist them**, I will aspire:

116 (a) To represent my clients in a manner consistent with the proper functioning of a fair,
117 efficient, and humane system of justice. As a professional, I should:

- 118 (1) Avoid non-essential litigation and non-essential pleading in litigation;
119 (2) Explore the possibilities of settlement of all litigated matters;
120 (3) Seek non-coerced agreement between the parties on procedural and discovery
121 matters;
122 (4) Avoid all delays not dictated by a competent presentation of a client's claims;
123 (5) Prevent misuses of court time by verifying the availability of key participants
124 for scheduled appearances before the court and by being punctual; and
125 (6) Advise clients about the obligations of civility, courtesy, fairness,
126 cooperation, and other proper behavior expected of those who use our
127 systems of justice.

128 (b) To model for others the respect due to our courts. As a professional I should:

- 129 (1) Act with complete honesty;
130 (2) Know court rules and procedures;
131 (3) Give appropriate deference to court rulings;
132 (4) Avoid undue familiarity with members of the judiciary;
133 (5) Avoid unfounded, unsubstantiated, or unjustified public criticism of members
134 of the judiciary;
135 (6) Show respect by attire and demeanor;
136 (7) Assist the judiciary in determining the applicable law; and,
137 (8) Seek to understand the judiciary's obligations of informed and impartial
138 decision-making.

139 **As to my colleagues in the practice of law**, I will aspire:

140 (a) To recognize and to develop our interdependence;

141 (b) To respect the needs of others, especially the need to develop as a whole person; and,

142 (c) To assist my colleagues become better people in the practice of law and to accept

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143 their assistance offered to me.

144 **As to our profession**, I will aspire:

145 (a) To improve the practice of law. As a professional, I should:

- 146 (1) Assist in continuing legal education efforts;
147 (2) Assist in organized bar activities; and,
148 (3) Assist law schools in the education of our future lawyers.

149 (b) To protect the public from incompetent or other wrongful lawyering. As a
150 professional, I should:

- 151 (1) Assist in bar admissions activities;
152 (2) Report violations of ethical regulations by fellow lawyers; and,
153 (3) Assist in the enforcement of the legal and ethical standards imposed upon all
154 lawyers.

155 **As to the public and our systems of justice**, I will aspire:

156 (a) To counsel clients about the moral and social consequences of their conduct.

157 (b) To consider the effect of my conduct on the image of our systems of justice including the
158 social effect of advertising methods. As a professional, I should ensure that any
159 advertisement of my services:

- 160 (1) is consistent with the dignity of the justice system and a learned profession;
161 (2) provides a beneficial service to the public by providing accurate information
162 about the availability of legal services;
163 (3) educates the public about the law and legal system;
164 (4) provides completely honest and straightforward information about my
165 qualifications, fees, and costs; and
166 (5) does not imply that clients' legal needs can be met only through aggressive tactics.

167 (c) To provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of
168 justice available to all.

169 (d) To support organizations that provide pro bono representation to indigent clients.

170 (e) To improve our laws and legal system by, for example:

- 171 (1) Serving as a public official;
172 (2) Assisting in the education of the public concerning our laws and legal system;
173 (3) Commenting publicly upon our laws; and,
174 (4) Using other appropriate methods of effecting positive change in our laws and
175 legal system.

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Rules and Regulations of the State Bar of Georgia, as amended September 10, 2003 and April 26, 2013*



Georgia State Law Honor Code

(Approved, as amended Nov. 17, 1982; Dec. 6, 1988; May 14, 1998; April 15, 2004; May 10, 2018; April 30, 2021; March 24, 2023)

Excerpts from <https://law.gsu.edu/2023/03/24/new-revised-honor-code/> (Last visited Jul 25, 2023)

Preamble

Students at the College of Law are joining an academic community and embarking on a professional career. The law school community and the legal profession share many important values. Every member of the College of Law has the right to live and learn in an atmosphere of trust and support. Responsibility for maintaining these values in our community rests with each individual member. Values that promote this atmosphere include:

HONESTY: Be truthful in your academic work and in your relationships.

INTEGRITY: Be trustworthy, fair and ethical.

RESPONSIBILITY: Be accountable for your actions and your learning.

RESPECT: Be civil. Value the dignity of each person. Honor the physical and intellectual property of others.

Sec. 1.2 General Rules

a. Each student has a duty to read the Code. Ignorance of any provisions in this Code shall not be a defense to any violation of the Code.

* * *

Section 2. Duties of Students Under the Honor Code

Sec. 2.1 Reading and Abiding by the Code

All students must read this Code and abide by it.

Sec. 2.2 Reporting Misconduct

A Student shall report any conduct that they know or suspect constitutes a violation of this Code.

A Student who has information sufficient to create a reasonable belief that a violation of this Code has occurred shall promptly report that information as provided in Sec. 4(b).

* * *

Section 3. Violations of Honor Code

Sec. 3.1 Academic Misconduct, Generally

It shall be a violation of the Code for any student to obtain or seek to obtain an unfair academic advantage for himself or herself or any other student.

Sec 3.2 Academic Misconduct, Assessments

With regard to assessments, any of the following shall be a violation of the Code: unauthorized use of materials, unauthorized use of human or other help, unauthorized use of electronic or technological methods, unauthorized communications, and unauthorized extension of time. It shall also be a violation of the Code to violate instructions about which an instructor has notified students will constitute a Code violation.

Sec. 3.3 Plagiarism and Related Offenses

It shall be a violation of this Section for any student to commit plagiarism or a related offense. Plagiarism under this Code means presenting someone else's work or ideas as one's own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into one's own work without full acknowledgement or attribution of the source. When one is using the words of another verbatim, proper attribution of the source requires the use of quotation marks or other conventions to indicate clearly that fact. Plagiarism also includes rewriting or paraphrasing the ideas or passages of another if the source is not properly attributed. In addition to failing to properly attribute sources of ideas, for purposes of this Section, plagiarism also includes plagiarizing one's own, or another student's work. No student shall plagiarize in the submission of any paper, project, or other written work submitted for academic credit or any other academic purpose in the College of Law. By way of illustration only and not by way of limitation, the following are examples of violations of this Section:

- (1) Submitting the same or substantially the same written work for academic credit in more than one course without express permission of the instructors in both courses.
- (2) Submitting the work of another (current or former) student as one's own or allowing such submission.

Sec. 3.4. Dishonesty/Misrepresentation

It shall be a violation of the Code to perform any act or make any statement (written or oral) to any member of the College of Law faculty, staff, or administration providing or containing false, incomplete, or misleading information.

* * *

Sec. 3.6 Preprofessional Misconduct

It shall be a violation of the Code for any student to engage in any conduct in connection with any activities of the College of Law which raises a substantial question as to that student's honesty, trustworthiness, or moral fitness to practice law or become a member of the legal profession.

Sec. 3.7 Other Offenses

A student may be charged with a violation of this Code if a student acts in a manner not otherwise directly covered in this Code that shows an intentional disregard for the ethical standards of the legal profession or the fundamental values of Georgia State College of Law community. Examples of this kind of conduct include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Failing to indicate clearly to the instructor that one's written work was submitted after the announced deadline for such submissions;
- (2) Fabricating references or citations in any written work submitted for credit;
- (3) Engaging in prohibited collaboration in course work;

* * *

- (5) Failing to report an Honor Code violation, as required by Sec. 2.2 and 4(b) provided that the Student had information sufficient to create a reasonable belief that another Student has violated this Code.

* * *



State Bar of Georgia

RULE 1.2 SCOPE OF REPRESENTATION AND ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN CLIENT AND LAWYER

(a) Subject to paragraphs (c) and (d), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the scope and objectives of representation and, as required by Rule 1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. A lawyer may take such action on behalf of the client as is impliedly authorized to carry out the representation. A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision whether to settle a matter. In a criminal case, the lawyer shall abide by the client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, as to a plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial and whether the client will testify.

(b) A lawyer's representation of a client, including representation by appointment, does not constitute an endorsement of the client's political, economic, social or moral views or activities.

(c) A lawyer may limit the scope and objectives of the representation if the limitation is reasonable under the circumstances and the client gives informed consent.

(d) A lawyer shall not either knowingly or with willful blindness counsel a client to engage in criminal or fraudulent conduct, nor knowingly or with willful blindness assist a client in such conduct. However, a lawyer may discuss the legal consequences of any proposed course of conduct with a client and may counsel or assist a client to make a good faith effort to determine the validity, scope, meaning, or application of the law.

The maximum penalty for a violation of this rule is disbarment.

Comment

Allocation of Authority between Client and Lawyer

[1] Paragraph (a) confers upon the client the ultimate authority to determine the purposes to be served by legal representation, within the limits imposed by law and the lawyer's professional obligations. The decisions specified in paragraph (a), such as whether to settle a civil matter, must also be made by the client. See Rule 1.4 (a) (1) for the lawyer's duty to communicate with the client about such decisions. With respect to the means by which the client's objectives are to be pursued, the lawyer shall consult with the client as required by Rule 1.4 (a) (2) and may take such action as is impliedly authorized to carry out the representation.

[2] On occasion, however, a lawyer and a client may disagree about the means to be used to accomplish the client's objectives. Clients normally defer to the special knowledge and skill of their lawyer with respect to the means to be used to accomplish their objectives, particularly with respect to technical, legal and tactical matters. Conversely, lawyers usually defer to the client regarding such questions as the expense to be incurred and

concern for third persons who might be adversely affected. Because of the varied nature of the matters about which a lawyer and client might disagree and because the actions in question may implicate the interests of a tribunal or other persons, this rule does not prescribe how such disagreements are to be resolved. Other law, however, may be applicable and should be consulted by the lawyer. The lawyer should also consult with the client and seek a mutually acceptable resolution of the disagreement. If such efforts are unavailing and the lawyer has a fundamental disagreement with the client, the lawyer may withdraw from the representation. See Rule 1.16 (b) (4). Conversely, the client may resolve the disagreement by discharging the lawyer. See Rule 1.16 (a) (3).

[3] At the outset of a representation, the client may authorize the lawyer to take specific action on the client's behalf without further consultation. Absent a material change in circumstances and subject to Rule 1.4, a lawyer may rely on such an advance authorization. The client may, however, revoke such authority at any time.

[4] In a case in which the client appears to be suffering from diminished capacity, the lawyer's duty to abide by the client's decisions is to be guided by reference to Rule 1.14.

Independence from Client's Views or Activities

[5] Legal representation should not be denied to people who are unable to afford legal services, or whose cause is controversial or the subject of popular disapproval. By the same token, representing a client does not constitute approval of the client's views or activities.

Agreements Limiting Scope of Representation

[6] The scope of services to be provided by a lawyer may be limited by agreement with the client or by the terms under which the lawyer's services are made available to the client. When a lawyer has been retained by an insurer to represent an insured, for example, the representation may be limited to matters related to the insurance coverage. A limited representation may be appropriate because the client has limited objectives for the representation. In addition, the terms upon which representation is undertaken may exclude specific means that might otherwise be used to accomplish the client's objectives. Such limitations may exclude actions that the client thinks are too costly or that the lawyer regards as repugnant or imprudent.

[7] Although this rule affords the lawyer and the client substantial latitude to limit the representation, the limitation must be reasonable under the circumstances. If, for example, a client's objective is limited to securing general information about the law the client needs in order to handle a common and typically uncomplicated legal problem, the lawyer and client may agree that the lawyer's services will be limited to a brief telephone consultation. Such a limitation, however, would not be reasonable if the time allotted was not sufficient to yield advice upon which the client could rely. Although an agreement for a limited representation does not exempt a lawyer from the duty to provide competent representation, the limitation is a factor to be considered when determining the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation. See Rule 1.1.

[8] All agreements concerning a lawyer's representation of a client must accord with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and other law. See, e.g., Rules 1.1, 1.8 and 5.6.

Criminal, Fraudulent and Prohibited Transactions

[9] Paragraph (d) prohibits a lawyer from knowingly counseling or assisting a client to commit a crime or fraud. This prohibition, however, does not preclude the lawyer from giving an honest opinion about the actual consequences that appear likely to result from a client's conduct. Nor does the fact that a client uses advice in a course of action that is criminal or fraudulent of itself make a lawyer a party to the course of action. There is a critical distinction between presenting an analysis of legal aspects of questionable conduct and recommending the means by which a crime or fraud might be committed with impunity.

[10] When the client's course of action has already begun and is continuing, the lawyer's responsibility is especially delicate. The lawyer is required to avoid assisting the client, for example, by drafting or delivering documents that the lawyer knows are fraudulent or by suggesting how the wrongdoing might be concealed. A lawyer may not continue assisting a client in conduct that the lawyer originally supposed was legally proper but then discovers is criminal or fraudulent. The lawyer must, therefore, withdraw from the representation of the client in the matter. See Rule 1.16 (a). In some cases, withdrawal alone might be insufficient. It may be necessary for the lawyer to give notice of the fact of withdrawal and to disaffirm any opinion, document, affirmation or the like. See Rule 4.1.

[11] Where the client is a fiduciary, the lawyer may be charged with special obligations in dealings with a beneficiary.

[12] Paragraph (d) applies whether or not the defrauded party is a party to the transaction. Hence, a lawyer must not participate in a transaction to effectuate criminal or fraudulent avoidance of tax liability. Paragraph (d) does not preclude undertaking a criminal defense incident to a general retainer for legal services to a lawful enterprise. The last clause of paragraph (d) recognizes that determining the validity or interpretation of a statute or regulation may require a course of action involving disobedience of the statute or regulation or of the interpretation placed upon it by governmental authorities.

[13] If a lawyer comes to know or reasonably should know that a client expects assistance not permitted by the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or other law or if the lawyer intends to act contrary to the client's instructions, the lawyer must consult with the client regarding the limitations on the lawyer's conduct. See Rule 1.4 (a) (5).



State Bar of Georgia

RULE 8.1 BAR ADMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

An applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer in connection with a bar admission application or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not:

- (a) knowingly make a false statement of material fact; or
- (b) fail to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, or knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

The maximum penalty for a violation of this Rule is disbarment.

Comment

[1] The duty imposed by this Rule extends to persons seeking admission to the bar as well as to lawyers. Hence, if a person makes a material false statement in connection with an application for admission, it may be the basis for subsequent disciplinary action if the person is admitted, and in any event may be relevant in a subsequent admission application. The duty imposed by this Rule applies to a lawyer's own admission or discipline as well as that of others. Thus, it is a separate professional offense for a lawyer to knowingly make a misrepresentation or omission in connection with a disciplinary investigation of the lawyer's own conduct. This Rule also requires affirmative clarification of any misunderstanding on the part of the admissions or disciplinary authority of which the person involved becomes aware.

[2] This Rule is subject to the provisions of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution and corresponding provisions of state constitutions. A person relying on such a provision in response to a question, however, should do so openly and not use the right of nondisclosure as a justification for failure to comply with this Rule.

[3] A lawyer representing an applicant for admission to the bar, or representing a lawyer who is the subject of a disciplinary inquiry or proceeding, is governed by the rules applicable to the client-lawyer relationship.



State Bar of Georgia

RULE 8.3 REPORTING PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

(a) A lawyer having knowledge that another lawyer has committed a violation of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct that raises a substantial question as to that lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, should inform the appropriate professional authority.

(b) A lawyer having knowledge that a judge has committed a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct that raises a substantial question as to the judge's fitness for office should inform the appropriate authority.

There is no disciplinary penalty for a violation of this Rule.

Comment

[1] Self-regulation of the legal profession requires that members of the profession initiate disciplinary investigations when they know of a violation of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. Lawyers have a similar obligation with respect to judicial misconduct. An apparently isolated violation may indicate a pattern of misconduct that only a disciplinary investigation can uncover. Reporting a violation is especially important where the victim is unlikely to discover the offense.



State Bar of Georgia

RULE 8.4 MISCONDUCT

(a)

It shall be a violation of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct for a lawyer to:

(1)

violate or knowingly attempt to violate the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;

(2)

be convicted of a felony;

(3)

be convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude where the underlying conduct relates to the lawyer's fitness to practice law;

(4)

engage in professional conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;

(5)

fail to pay any final judgment or rule absolute rendered against such lawyer for money collected by him or her as a lawyer within ten days after the time appointed in the order or judgment;

(6)

(i) state an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official by means that violate the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;

(ii)

state an ability to achieve results by means that violate the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;

(iii)

achieve results by means that violate the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;

(7)

knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable Rules of judicial conduct or other law; or

(8)

commit a criminal act that relates to the lawyer's fitness to practice law or reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer, where the lawyer has admitted in judicio, the commission of such act.

(1)

For purposes of this Rule, conviction shall have the meaning set forth in Rule 1.0 (f).

(2)

The record of a conviction or disposition in any jurisdiction based upon a guilty plea, a plea of nolo contendere, a verdict of guilty or a verdict of guilty but mentally ill, or upon the imposition of first offender probation shall be conclusive evidence of such conviction or disposition and shall be admissible in proceedings under these disciplinary Rules.

(c)

This Rule shall not be construed to cause any infringement of the existing inherent right of Georgia Superior Courts to suspend and disbar lawyers from practice based upon a conviction of a crime as specified in paragraphs (a) (1), (a) (2) and (a) (3) above.

(d)

Rule 8.4 (a) (1) does not apply to any of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct for which there is no disciplinary penalty.

The maximum penalty for a violation of Rule 8.4 (a) (1) is the maximum penalty for the specific Rule violated. The maximum penalty for a violation of Rule 8.4 (a) (2) through (c) is disbarment.

Comment

[1] The prohibitions of this Rule as well as the prohibitions of Bar Rule 4-102 prevents a lawyer from attempting to violate the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or from knowingly aiding or abetting, or providing direct or indirect assistance or inducement to another person who violates or attempts to violate a rule of professional conduct. A lawyer may not avoid a violation of the rules by instructing a nonlawyer, who is not subject to the rules, to act where the lawyer can not.

[2] This Rule, as its predecessor, is drawn in terms of acts involving "moral turpitude" with, however, a recognition that some such offenses concern matters of personal morality and have no specific connection to fitness for the practice of law. Here the concern is limited to those matters which fall under both the rubric of "moral turpitude" and involve underlying conduct relating to the fitness of the lawyer to practice law.

[3] Many kinds of illegal conduct reflect adversely on fitness to practice law, such as offenses involving fraud and the offense of willful failure to file an income tax return. However, some kinds of offenses carry no such implication. Traditionally, the distinction was drawn in terms of offenses involving "moral turpitude." That concept can be construed to include offenses concerning some matters of personal morality, such as adultery and comparable offenses, that have no specific connection to fitness for the practice of law. Although a lawyer is personally answerable to the entire criminal law, a lawyer should be professionally answerable only for offenses that indicate lack of those characteristics relevant to law practice. Offenses involving violence, dishonesty, breach of trust, or serious interference with the administration of justice are in that category. A pattern of repeated offenses, even ones of minor significance when considered separately,

can indicate indifference to legal obligation.

[4] Reserved.

[5] A lawyer may refuse to comply with an obligation imposed by law upon a good faith belief that no valid obligation exists. The provisions of Rule 1.2(d) concerning a good faith challenge to the validity, scope, meaning or application of the law apply to challenges of legal regulation of the practice of law.

[6] Persons holding public office assume responsibilities going beyond those of other citizens. A lawyer's abuse of public office can suggest an inability to fulfill the professional role of lawyers. The same is true of abuse of positions of private trust such as trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, agent and officer, director or manager of a corporation or other organization.



**Policy Statement
of the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants
Regarding Character and Fitness Reviews**

EXCERPTS FOR 2024 LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATIONS ON PROFESSIONALISM

The Supreme Court of Georgia has delegated to the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants the responsibility of deciding whether applicants for admission to the practice of law possess the requisite character and fitness to become members of the State Bar of Georgia. The Board's primary mission is to ensure that the public is secure in its expectation that those who are admitted to the Bar are worthy of the trust and confidence clients may reasonably place in their attorneys. This Policy Statement is intended to provide applicants with information about some of the most common issues that lead to further inquiry by the Board and about how the Board views its obligation to protect the public. For a list of the information that the Office of Bar Admissions gathers as a part of the investigatory process for the Board, review the [Character and Fitness Questionnaire](#), which is part of the Fitness Application.

In order to be certified as fit, the Board requires that applicants to the Bar conduct themselves in a manner that would engender the trust of clients, adversaries, and courts. The hallmark of such a person is honesty, especially in connection with the Application for Certification of Fitness to Practice Law. The burden is on the applicant to establish current good character and fitness for admission. If the Board determines that the applicant's current character and fitness are deficient in honesty, trustworthiness, diligence, reliability, or judgment, the applicant will not be recommended for admission. The Board views character and fitness as including, but not limited to, the following:

- conducting oneself with a high degree of honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness in all professional relationships and with respect to all legal obligations;
- using honesty and good judgment in financial dealings on behalf of oneself, clients, and others;
- conducting oneself with respect for and in accordance with the law, the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct, A Lawyer's Creed, and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism;
- exercising good judgment in conducting one's professional business;
- avoiding acts that exhibit disregard for the health, safety, and welfare of others;
- conducting oneself diligently and reliably in fulfilling all obligations to clients, attorneys, courts, and others;
- complying with deadlines and time constraints; and
- conducting oneself professionally and in a manner that engenders respect for the law and the legal profession.

The Board will conduct a thorough investigation of each applicant, using as a basis for the investigation the Fitness Application submitted to the Office of Bar Admissions by the applicant.

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With regard to conduct that may be the basis for further inquiry, the Board has developed the following policies and procedures:

A. Unlawful Conduct

The Board considers all significant incidents of unlawful conduct, especially in the period after the applicant started law school, and it requires applicants with a criminal history to provide evidence of rehabilitation and evidence of current good character. In this regard, the Board considers, among other things, any unlawful conduct for which the applicant has been detained or arrested by police, regardless of whether a conviction was obtained. Further, if an applicant has been convicted of a felony, the Board expects the applicant to seek a pardon before seeking admission. If an applicant is unable to obtain a pardon, the applicant should provide documentation showing that reasonable efforts were made to obtain the pardon, including documentation of the status of the petition. The Board considers restoration of civil rights to be critical to an applicant's ability to fully function

as an attorney, so restoration of civil rights is a minimum requirement.

The Board will inquire into all arrests even if the arrest did not lead to a conviction. There are many reasons why arrests do not result in convictions, and many of them have no bearing on guilt or innocence. While the occurrence of an acquittal or dismissal is relevant, it does not necessarily provide full context for the factual circumstances surrounding the arrest or the applicant's conduct that may have led to the arrest. This is not to suggest that the Board will assume that any arrest was due to guilty conduct on the part of the applicant. Rather, it is a reminder that criminal matters are relevant to the Board's inquiries, and that the applicant is obligated to be completely forthright regarding all such matters.

If, at the time of the application, criminal charges are pending against an applicant, the Board will table the application until the charges are resolved. If a conviction results in probation, restitution, or some other sentence, the Board will not consider the application until the sentence has been served and probation completed.

B. Academic Misconduct

The Fitness Board strongly believes that academic misconduct, notably plagiarism, is indicative of dishonesty and untrustworthiness and predictive of dishonesty and untrustworthiness in the practice of law. Academic misconduct in law school is of particular concern to the Fitness Board. Applicants who have engaged in this type of misconduct must show full rehabilitation prior to being certified as fit by the Board.

C. Making a False Statement

A pattern of dishonesty in dealings with employers, schools, and authorities, including the Office of Bar Admissions, is the most frequent reason for denial of certification of fitness. Giving false information on the application or failing to be entirely forthcoming and completely candid in the application process is a serious matter. In the fitness process, applicants give sworn statements to an agency of the Supreme Court, so the failure to be fully responsive to application questions, or any other lack of candor in the application process is considered to be current and ongoing dishonesty. An applicant who exhibits such lack of candor will have a difficult time showing that rehabilitation — which requires more than contrition — has occurred.

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E. Impairment Due to Mental Illness or Substance Abuse

The Board on rare occasion denies certification to applicants whose current ability to practice law is significantly impaired by mental illness or substance abuse. The Board does not deny certification to applicants based on their decision to seek treatment or support for a mental health condition or substance abuse issue. In fact, the Board encourages applicants to seek treatment if needed and believes that an applicant's decision to obtain necessary treatment is indicative of a person who possesses the requisite character and fitness to be a member of the State Bar of Georgia. All information provided to the Board is strictly confidential.

If there is significant evidence that an applicant's ability to function as an attorney may be impaired, the Board may request more information, an informal conference, or treatment records. The Board may also ask an applicant to obtain a drug, alcohol, or mental health evaluation from a Board-certified psychiatrist or licensed psychologist identified by the Board.

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Should there be any questions about the Fitness Application or the Board's policies, please email gabaradmissions@gasupreme.us.

**OATH OF ADMISSION
TO THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**

“I, _____, swear that I will truly and honestly, justly and uprightly conduct myself as a member of this learned profession and in accordance with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct, as an attorney and counselor and that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia. So help me God.”

As revised by the Supreme Court of Georgia, April 22, 2002

See <https://www.gasupreme.us/rules/amendments-to-rules/attorney-oath/> (Last visited Jul 18, 2025)

**LAW STUDENT
APPLICATION**

Mail to: State Bar of Georgia
Membership Department
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743
404-527-8777 or 800-334-6865

Date: _____

I certify that I am currently enrolled at _____ School of Law, which is an ABA Accredited Law School or a Law School approved by the Board of Bar Examiners, I hereby apply for recognition as a Law Student member under the provisions of Rule 1-206 of the Rules and Regulations for the Organization and Government of the State Bar of Georgia, and of Article I, Section 6 of the Bylaws, both of which are quoted on page 2 of this application.

With this application, I am applying for Law Student Membership. I will notify the State Bar of Georgia if I am no longer enrolled at an ABA Accredited Law School or a Law School approved by the Board of Bar Examiners.

***All fields required**

FULL NAME: (Mr. Ms.) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

EXPECTED YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA.

Part 1. Chapter 2 Membership

Rule 1-206.1 Law Student Members.

In addition to the membership and classes of membership provided in this Chapter, the State Bar may recognize as law student members, without the rights and privileges of membership, those law students currently enrolled in a law school approved by the American Bar Association or any law school approved by the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners. Law Student members may be furnished copies of appropriate publications and may be entitled to attend and participate, without the right to vote or hold office, in those meetings and activities conducted by the State Bar and any of its component parts or sections.

THE BYLAWS, STATE BAR OF GEORGIA. ARTICLE 1. Section 6. Affiliate Membership and Law Student Membership.

In addition to the classes of membership provided in Rule 1-202, Organization of the State Bar and Admissions, the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee may consider and approve or disapprove applications for Affiliate or Law Student membership with the State Bar of Georgia. Affiliate and Law Student members shall have the right to attend State Bar of Georgia meetings and receive State Bar official publications. Neither Affiliate nor Law Student members may hold office, vote or have any other rights and privileges incident to the membership classes set forth in Rule 1-202 with the State Bar of Georgia. Affiliate or Law Student members shall not hold themselves out or imply to the public, courts or members of the legal profession that they are members of the State Bar of Georgia as defined in Rule 1-202 of the State Bar of Georgia. The State Bar retains the right to deny or revoke the membership privileges of any Affiliate or Law Student member who violates this Section.

(b) Law Student Membership. The application form for a Law Student member shall include a certification by the applicant that he or she is a student in good standing at an ABA accredited law school in Georgia. Law Student membership may be renewed each Bar year by certifying to the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia that the student is currently enrolled in law school and in good standing. The Board of Governors may set annual dues or fees for Law Student membership.

Counseling Center Services

24/7 Crisis Consultation

The Counseling Center is available 24/7 if you're in crisis. During business hours, call 404-413-1640 and let our support team know that you'd like to speak with someone urgently.

Be Well Magazine

This site features a digital wellness magazine that integrates relevant information from counseling, health, access and accommodation, recreation and nutrition services. It is a one-stop site for resources and information on health and wellness.

Client Advocacy

Our client advocate is available to meet with students to connect them with community resources, including help with food insecurity, housing, health resources and more.

Collegiate Recovery Community

Weekly in-person socially distanced substance-use recovery meetings are open to Georgia State students and the larger community on Mondays at 6 p.m.

Counseling Sessions

The Counseling Center provides short-term, time-limited individual and couples counseling services for students. Students attending ongoing individual counseling within the Counseling Center or Georgia State Psychology Clinic are also eligible to meet with a psychiatrist through our center.

Group Counseling

Groups include a graduate student support group, a transgender support group, a coping skills group, a Black women's support group, an LGBTQ support group and a group for students who have attempted suicide in the past.

Same-Day Consultations

Students are eligible to consult with a counselor in the Counseling Center during business hours. Your consultation appointment is designed to help our counselors understand your unique situation and need.

Wellness Programming

The Counseling Center offers wellness programs for students, staff and faculty. These can be in the form of classroom presentations, wellness workshops or events.

TogetherAll

Togetherall.com is an online mental health community available to all students. Through this site, students can offer and receive peer-to-peer support for mental health concerns. The site is also monitored by licensed therapists in case of crisis.

Visit <https://counselingcenter.gsu.edu/> for complete information on services!

NEED HELP? CALL THIS NUMBER 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

404-413-1640

Georgia State University – Title IX Reporting Mechanisms

Georgia State does not tolerate sexual misconduct and prohibits crimes of sexual violence such as dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, rape and stalking. The Office of the Dean of Students, Student Victim Assistance, Student Health Promotion, Student Health Clinic and Counseling Center work collaboratively to prevent sexual misconduct, provide support to students who have experienced sexual misconduct and respond to reports of sexual misconduct.

By working together, we can create a campus free of sexual misconduct.

Complete information can be found at <https://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/sexual-misconduct/>

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

University Report

Sexual misconduct by members of the university community should be immediately reported to one of Georgia State's Title IX coordinators as described below:

Sexual Misconduct by students should be reported to:

Office of Equity & Civil Rights Compliance

One Park Place, Suite 527

404-413-2561

Visit <https://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/sexual-misconduct/> for reporting form.

Sexual Misconduct by faculty or staff should be reported to:

Office of Equity & Civil Rights Compliance

One Park Place, Suite 527

404-413-2561

Visit <https://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/sexual-misconduct/> for reporting form.

The university will protect confidentiality by not disclosing the complainant's information to anyone outside the university, except as required by law. Within the university, a complainant's request for confidentiality must be balanced by the university with its responsibility to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment for the university community. Where the university cannot take disciplinary action against a student because of a complainant's insistence upon confidentiality, the university's

response will be limited, but it will pursue other steps where available to limit the effects of the alleged sexual misconduct and attempt to prevent its recurrence.

Law Enforcement Reporting

Sexual misconduct may be reported to campus or local law enforcement agencies. University officials are available to provide assistance with making such reports, upon request. Reporting to law enforcement is not required.

Students who are considering filing a university report or law enforcement report of sexual misconduct are encouraged to preserve any evidence of sexual misconduct. Examples of evidence that would assist in an investigation of sexual misconduct include such things as:

- clothing worn during the incident including undergarments;
- sheets, bedding, and condoms, if used;
- list of witnesses with contact information;
- text messages, call history, social media posts; and
- pictures of injuries.

Confidential Disclosure

Sexual misconduct may be disclosed confidentially in the following areas:

Georgia State University Counseling Center
75 Piedmont Ave. NE, Suite 200
404-413-1640

Georgia State University Student Health Clinic
141 Piedmont Ave. NE, Suite D
404-413-1950

Georgia State University Student Victim Assistance
75 Piedmont Ave. NE, Suite 239
404-413-1965

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM

2025 Hypothetical Problems for Group Discussion Final



Problem 1



Savannah is a 3L applying to law firms. As a 2L, she worked part-time in the law library. Professors can send short research assignments to the law librarian, who then distributes them randomly to student workers.

As a student worker, Savannah completed two short research projects for well-known scholars whom she did not personally know. On her resume, she listed “Research Assistant to Professor Davis and to Professor Ramirez.”

Problem 1 Continued



During an interview, a firm asked about her work for the professors. She said, “Yes, it really was an honor to work for them; the work was very interesting, and it gave me a great chance to sharpen my research skills.” The firm was impressed with her experience and offered her a job.



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 1

1. Has Savannah violated any professional responsibility, professionalism, or honor codes applicable to law students?
2. Should she have stated that she was a “Research Assistant” on her resume? Suppose she did not separately list her job at the library—what difference, if any, does that make?



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 1

3. What would Professors Davis and Ramirez say if a firm reached out to them about Savannah? Does it matter whether a firm is likely to do so?

A Lawyer's Creed

- To the courts, and other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I offer respect, candor, and courtesy. I will strive to do honor to the search for justice.

(Lines 10 – 12)

- As a professional I should: Act with complete honesty.

(Lines 128 – 129)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

As a lawyer, I will aspire

(e) To preserve the dignity and the integrity of our profession by my conduct. The dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained by each successive generation of lawyers.

(Lines 48, 64 – 66)



Problem 2 – Part A



Amari is a second-year law student who is excited about her classes, especially her public health elective. Amari is a teaching assistant for her public health professor, Professor Lee. A few weeks into the semester, Professor Lee tells the class there will be a panel discussion on constitutional issues at the next class.

The next week, the panelists arrive as planned and begin discussing vaccines, science, healthcare, and individual rights. One of the panelists is an attorney who represents companies and individuals who are fighting vaccine mandates.

Problem 2 Part A Continued



During a tense exchange with a student, the attorney tells the class that “controversial issues like these have a lot of emotion involved, but at the end of the day, it’s not about emotions — it’s about rights; everyone deserves representation.”

The intention for selecting this panel was to reflect the passion and commitment of our community to uphold values of inclusivity, and respect for diverse viewpoints. However, a few enraged students circulate a petition instructing the school not to rehire adjunct Professor Lee because he invited an anti-vaxxer to speak.



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 2A

Imagine you are in Amari's position. How would you feel being asked to sign this petition?

Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

As a lawyer, I will aspire:

(e) To make the law, the legal system, and other dispute resolution processes available to all.

(Lines 48, 60 – 61)



Professionalism: Repaying the Debt Article

The legal profession has risen to no greater heights than when it stepped forward in defense of the despised. A lawyer proves his or her professionalism with the willingness to represent an unpopular cause. Just as John Adams defended British soldiers who participated in the Boston Massacre, lawyers of this age have a duty to serve those in need without respect to their popularity.

The Complete article is available at <https://cicpga.org/articles/>

PROFESSIONALISM: REPAYING THE DEBT

by Presiding Justice Harold G. Clarke,
Georgia Supreme Court

After the Supreme Court of Georgia and the State Bar of Georgia announced their emphasis on professionalism, lawyers posed two questions: what is it and why does it matter? This article attempts to examine, but perhaps not answer, these questions looking at them in reverse order.

Public attitudes and expressions

of these problems makes necessary an identification of the nature of professionalism and an examination of how it can be instituted.

Professionalism Defined

Most observers express a belief that a definition of professionalism lies outside an area in which a consensus can be reached. Some even

Presiding Justice Harold G. Clarke has served on the Supreme Court of Georgia since his appointment in 1979. He is a lifelong resident of Forsyth County, having been born there September 24, 1927. He graduated from the University of Georgia School of



Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct

- Rule 1.2 Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority Between Client and Lawyer:
 - b) A lawyer's representation of a client, including representation by appointment, does not constitute an endorsement of the client's political, economic, social or moral views or activities.
- Comment 5 to Rule 1.2: Legal representation should not be denied to people who are unable to afford legal services, or whose cause is controversial or the subject of popular disapproval. **By the same token, representing a client does not constitute approval of the client's views or activities.** (Emphasis supplied).



Problem 2 – Part B



Soon, news of the students' petition spreads to social media. Jordan, a first-year student at the school who heard about the panel and the petition, posts a meme (pictured on the next slide) with the following text:

“Students of the Professionalism College of Law, this message is for you and your ridiculous petition to get rid of Prof. Lee! This is law school, not daycare. Your precious feelings don't get to be coddled.”



“Students of the Professionalism College of Law, this message is for you and your ridiculous petition to get rid of Prof. Lee! This is law school, not daycare. Your precious feelings don't get to be coddled.”





QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 2B

1. In what ways will this add more stress to your plate?
2. What could you do to reduce this added stress?

A Lawyer's Creed

- To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.
(Lines 6 – 9)
- To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.
(Lines 13 – 15)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

- To preserve the dignity and the integrity of our profession by my conduct. The dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained by each successive generation of lawyers. (Lines 64 – 66)
- Be courteous and civil in all communications. (Line 108)
- To recognize and to develop our interdependence. (Line 140)



Problem 3 – Part A



All 1L students take Torts with Professor Brown in either her Section A or Section B class. Students in both sections take the same midterm. Miranda is in Section B. Miranda's 2L friend, who had Professor Brown last year, shared Professor Brown's prior Torts midterm exam with Miranda and told her that it will be a take home essay exam.

Problem 3 – Part A Continued



Miranda's friend also included her essay response for Miranda to study from. No other student had access to a sample of Professor Brown's exam or essay answer.



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 3A

1. Should Miranda use the prior Torts midterm exam to study?
2. Should Miranda share the prior Torts midterm exam with members of her study group?



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 3A

3. Do the students who learn that Miranda possesses the prior Torts midterm exam have any responsibilities?
4. What if Miranda typed the exam question into ChatGPT and used that answer as a study aid. Are there any professional responsibility or ethical implications here?



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 3A

5. What if Miranda instead inserted her friend's essay answer into ChatGPT and used this as a study aid. Would that change your opinion? Why?

Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

- As to the courts, other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I will aspire to
 - (b) model for others the respect due to our courts. As a professional
 - (1) I should act with complete honesty.
- (Lines 115, 128 – 129)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

- As to my colleagues in the practice of law, I will aspire (c) to assist my colleagues become better people in the practice of law and to accept their assistance offered to me.

(Lines 139, 142 – 143)



Problem 3 – Part B



It is time for Professor Brown's Torts midterm and she announces that it will be a take-home exam. Students from Section A were receiving the take-home exam on Monday and students from Section B were receiving the take-home exam on Wednesday. Miranda was friends with Section A and was in their GroupMe.

Problem 3 – Part B



The students in Section A did not remember that Miranda, from Section B, was in the group chat. Tuesday, before Miranda received the take-home Torts midterm exam, students from Section A discussed the content of the exam in their GroupMe. Miranda read Section A's GroupMe messages before realizing the content of the messages pertained to the Torts midterm exam.



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 3B

1. Should the Section A students have discussed information about the Torts midterm exam on GroupMe?
2. Do the students who learn that Miranda possesses the previous Torts midterm exam have any responsibilities?



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 3B

3. In practice, what if, at a restaurant, you overheard opposing counsel and their client discussing the case that you were litigating for your client? Would you listen? Would you inform counsel immediately? Would you use the information against them?

A Lawyer's Creed

- To my clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust. (Lines 2 – 5)
- To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship. (Lines 13 – 15)
- To the profession, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service. (Lines 16 – 18)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

As to my colleagues in the practice of law, I will aspire:

- (a) To recognize and to develop our interdependence;
- (b) To respect the needs of others, especially the need to develop as a whole person; and,
- (c) To assist my colleagues become better people in the practice of law and to accept their assistance offered to me.

(Lines 139 – 143)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

(b) As a professional, I should: . . .

- (2) Report violations of ethical regulations by fellow lawyers; and,
- (3) Assist in the enforcement of the legal and ethical standards imposed upon all lawyers.

(Lines 149 – 150, 152 – 154)



Problem 4



Ray, one of your classmates, recently told you that he was discussing a recent affirmative action case when his supervisor said, “Why do these people think this solution is a good idea?”

Ray was shocked by his supervisor’s statements but reluctantly nodded, appearing to agree with her.

Because Ray truly disagrees with his supervisor, he wants to share his opinion, but he is afraid of the potential consequences for stating his thoughts about the remark. **Ray asks you for advice.**



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 4

1. What is your advice to your classmate? Are there any resources you might suggest?
2. Should Ray speak to the law school about his concerns?



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 4

3. What if your classmate also told you that he or she informed a career counselor at your law school, and the career counselor suggested your classmate not say anything so he or she wouldn't burn bridges for the job?



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 4

4. How should Ray respond if another law student asks if he would recommend this internship?

A Lawyer's Creed

- To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.
(Lines 13 – 15)
- To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.
(Lines 6 – 9)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

- To the public and our systems of justice, I offer service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal system, to make the law and our legal system available to all, and to seek the common good through the representation of my clients. (Lines 19 – 23)



Problem 5 – Part A



Kai and Ellis just finished their first year of law school. They are taking two summer school courses. They also have a first-year externship at a large Atlanta law firm where they would like to work after graduation in the corporate law division. Ellis struggles to keep up and has expressed frustration to Kai, who offers encouragement.

Problem 5 – Part A



Unbeknownst to Kai, Ellis has begun buying ADHD drugs from a law school classmate and smoking marijuana to gain an edge and reduce stress.

One of the partners assigns a rigorous task to Kai and Ellis, which will determine which of them will return next summer.

Problem 5 – Part A



While working late at the firm, Kai smells a faint odor of marijuana in their area and sees Ellis pop two pills. Kai knows that Ellis does not take prescribed medication.



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 5

1. Does Kai have an obligation to report Ellis to the law school externship coordinator?



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 5

2. Does Kai have an obligation to report Ellis to the partners?

A Lawyer's Creed

- To my clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust.
(Lines 2 – 5)
- To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.
(Lines 13 – 15)
- To the profession, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service.
(Lines 13, 16 – 18)



Problem 5 – Part B



Years after graduation, Kai and Ellis open a law firm together. Their firm secures a lucrative client who wants both to work on the case. Ellis becomes stressed and resorts to taking illegal drugs, which he never truly stopped taking. Kai learns of Ellis' current illegal drug use.



QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Problem 5 – Part B

1. What should Kai do?

Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

As to our profession, I will aspire

(b) to protect the public from incompetent or other wrongful lawyering.

(Lines 144, 149 – 150)



Aspirational Statement on Professionalism

As a lawyer, I will aspire

(g) To preserve the dignity and the integrity of our profession by my conduct. The dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained by each successive generation of lawyers.

(Lines 48, 64 – 66)



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