

To: Class of 2022  
From: Assistant Dean Marc W. Pearce  
Date: August 1, 2019  
RE: Instructions for Orientation on Professionalism and Ethics

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## **Format**

As part of Orientation, we will have a session on professionalism and ethics on Thursday, August 22, from 1:30 until 4:00 pm. The program will begin with opening remarks and instructions in the Auditorium, and we will then break into small groups for discussions of the professionalism and ethical issues raised in the accompanying hypotheticals. Each group will include about ten students and one or two group leaders who are either members of the Law College faculty, judges, or experienced lawyers who have volunteered to participate in this session. After the breakout sessions, we will reconvene for concluding remarks and a social hour.

## **Hypotheticals**

You should read the hypotheticals, discussion questions, and guidelines before the session on professionalism and ethics. These hypotheticals are intended to acquaint you with some of the ethical and professional challenges you may encounter in law school and in the practice of law. Applicable Law College rules, Nebraska Rules of Professional Conduct, and other rules are included with the hypotheticals. The Nebraska Rules mirror the ABA Rules of Professional Conduct (as do the rules in almost all states). There is no need to conduct any additional research to prepare for this session.

You and your group leaders will choose several of the hypotheticals to discuss, but you should read and give some thought to all of them. You should think about what you would do and be prepared to discuss why you would make a particular decision or pursue a particular course of action. There will not always be clear right or wrong answers. What do your life experiences and your own set of ethics tell you? What is your gut reaction - how do these situations make you feel? Can you make an argument why a different course of action might also be "right"?

The main purpose of the session is to stimulate thought and discussion about professionalism and ethics. The session will also illustrate how the application of legal knowledge and the practice of law take place within a context of your responsibility to your client, your profession, the court, and yourself. We think you will find the group discussions lively and informative. They will also give you an exciting glimpse into the thought-provoking issues that confront law students and attorneys.

Best regards,

Marc W. Pearce  
Assistant Dean