

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF LAW at ANDOVER
LEGAL ETHICS
Syllabus Spring 2026
Professor Paula Colby-Clements

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Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday

9:30 AM to 10:50AM

or 7:30 PM to 8:50 PM

Materials: **Annotated Model Rules of Professional Conduct 10th Edition** by Ellen J. Bennett and Helen W. Gunnarsson. Published by the ABA.

Practice Perfect: Purchase instructions follow

PracticePerfect (Aspen Publishing)

PracticePerfect is a visually engaging, interactive study aid designed to help you review the core topics in your course and test your ability to recall and correctly apply the law. With PracticePerfect, you can watch videos, and practice by taking quizzes for each topic that will help you learn the course material and get detailed feedback to help you improve in class.

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Your professor will be able to view your latest quiz scores on video quizzes attempted in graded mode. If you need to drop the class for any reason, you may do so at any time. Upon dropping the class, your professor will no longer have access to your quiz scores. Keep in mind that you can still use PracticePerfect without joining any class.

Helpful Information

[Request Technical Support](#)

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www.casebookconnect.com/practiceperfect.

You will also need to access The Cannons of Judicial Conduct online: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_code_of_judicial_conduct.html

MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Available online at www.mass.gov/obcbbo/rpcnet.htm

RECOMMENDED: A Comprehensive Outline for MPRE Review.
(No Charge) We will discuss this on the first day of class.

ALL STUDENTS TAKING LEGAL ETHICS SHOULD BE REGISTERED FOR THE MARCH MPRE. To register go to the National Conference of Bar Examiners website: [Bar Exams | MPRE UBE MBE MEE MPT NextGen | NCBE \(ncbex.org\)](#)

Course Grading:

Class Participation	5%
Quizzes	5%
Mid Term Exam	10%
Final Exam	80%

Week of January 19th

MPRE Key Words and Phrases (Sheet on TWEN course site)

MPRE Subject Matter Outline Review (Sheet on TWEN course site)

Read: Preamble and Scope pages 1 -14.

Terminology pages 15-18.

Review the following rules and annotations:

1.17 Sale of a Law Practice

5.1 Responsibility of Partners, Managers, & Supervisory Lawyers

5.2 Responsibility of a Subordinate Lawyer

5.3 Responsibility Regarding Non-Lawyer Assistance

5.4 Professional Independence

5.5 Unauthorized Practice of Law

5.6 Restrictions on the right to practice

5.7 Responsibilities on Law Related Practices

8.1 Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters

8.2 Judicial and Legal Officials

8.3 Duty to report misconduct

8.4 General Misconduct

8.5 Disciplinary Authority

6.1 Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service

6.2 Accepting Appointments

6.3 Membership in Legal Services Organization

6.4 Law Reform Activities Affecting Client Interests

6.5 Nonprofit and Court-Annexed Limited Legal Svs. Programs

PRACTICE PERFECT VIDEOS and Quizzes

Rules: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 8.3

Week of January 26th

Review the following rules and annotations:

Rule 1.5 Fees

Rule 1.15 Safe-Keeping Property

Rule 1.16 Declining or Terminating Representation

Rule 1.18 Duties to Prospective Clients

Rule 7.1 Communication Regarding a Lawyer's Services

Rule 7.2 Advertising

Rule 7.3 Solicitation

Rule 7.4 Communication of Fields and Practice & Specialization

Rule 7.5 Firm Names and Letterhead

Rule 7.6 Political Contributions and Judicial Appointments

PRACTICE PERFECT VIDEOS and Quizzes

Rules: 1.5 (2 videos), 1.15, 1.16, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3

Week of February 2nd

Review the following rules and annotations:

1.1 Competence

1.2 Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority

1.3 Diligence

1.4 Communication

2.1 Lawyer as Advisor

2.3 Evaluation for Use by Third Persons

2.4 Lawyer Serving as a Third Party Neutral

1.6 Confidentiality of Information

Attorney-Client Privilege

Work-Product Doctrine

Malpractice Liability

PRACTICE PERFECT VIDEOS and Quizzes

Rules: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6 & Attorney-Client Privilege, Work Product Doctrine, Malpractice and Other liability.

Week of February 9th

Review the following rules and annotations:

1.7 Conflicts of Interest: Current Clients

1.8 Conflicts of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules

1.9 Duties to Former Clients

1.10 Imputation of Conflicts of Interest

1.11 Special Conflicts of Interest

1.12 Conflicts and Former Judicial Officers

1.13 Organization as a Client

1.14 Clients with Diminished Capacity

1.18 Prospective Client Conflicts

PRACTICE PERFECT VIDEOS and Quizzes

Rules: 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.13, 1.18

Week of February 16th

Conflicts of Interest Continued: continue to review all conflict rules and annotations.

Week of February 23rd

Review the following rules and annotations:

3.1 Meritorious Claims and Contentions

3.2 Expediting Litigation

3.3 Candor Toward the Tribunal

- 3.4 Fairness to Opposing Counsel
- 3.5 Impartiality Towards the Tribunal
- 3.6 Trial Publicity
- 3.7 Lawyer as a Witness
- 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor
- 3.9 Advocate in Non-Adjudicative Proceeding
- 4.1 Truthfulness in Statements to Others
- 4.2 Communication with Persons Represented by Counsel
- 4.3 Dealing with Unrepresented Persons
- 4.4 Respect for Rights of Third Persons

PRACTICE PERFECT VIDEOS and Quizzes

Rules: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.8, 3.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

Week of March 2nd

Review the following rules and annotations:

- 8.1 Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters
- 8.2 Judicial and Legal Officials

Week of March 9th

Tuesday, March 10th

MODEL CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

REVIEW ALL CANNONS AND RULES

PRACTICE PERFECT VIDEOS and Quizzes

Rules: Cannons 1 & 2, Cannons 3 & 4

Thursday, March 12th

MID-TERM EXAM

Week of March 16th

SPRING BREAK

Week of March 23rd

Tuesday March 24th Review Mid-Term Last minute TEST Strategies

MPRE TEST DATES: March 24th/25th.

Thursday, March 25th: No CLASS MPRE TEST DATE

Week of March 30th

MPRE Debrief/Introduction to Mass Rules of Professional Conduct

MPT OVERVIEW/Assignment of groups and hypotheticals

Week of April 6th

CONFLICTS

Karen Horowitz's Dilemma

Murder One Murder Two

Murder at the Ballgame

Will You Represent Us Both/They're All on The Same Page

Ed's Daughter Was Driving

Week of April 13TH

SUCCESSIVE CONFLICTS

Divorce and Default

Do I Still Owe the Record Store?

Stop the High Rise

You Don't Know Anything

Can We Hire Taylor Monk

Week of April 20th

Tuesday, April 21st: Tentative Date for Guest Visitor Joseph Makalusky, Office of Bar Counsel

Thursday, April 23rd

***Ethics in Advocacy, Candor Toward the Tribunal & Special Issues
in Criminal Prosecution***

Out Carousing with Mikey

Did you Communicate with Cassie?

Maxwell's Sliver Handle .38

The White Women on the Walls Have to Go

We Can Make No Promises

Week of April 27TH

Confidentiality and Privilege

My Client is HIV Positive

Dig They Must

I'd Rather Die

Accept the Offer

Something you Should Know