Miami Dade College

Course Description

PLA2931 | Legal Seminar: Ethics | 1.00 credit

Intensive practical and theoretical training is provided in a seminar format. The seminar topics cover current and timely legal issues and are addressed by practicing attorneys. The topics are announced at the beginning of the fall and winter semesters. Corequisites: PLA2003, LCO 0999 with a grade of "C" or better

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will understand the ethical rules developed by the American Bar Association for the regulation of attorney conduct by:

1. Describing the ethical rules for attorneys and sanctions for violations of those rules for the following areas:
    a. The unauthorized practice of law Confidentiality Conflicts of Interest
    b. Advertising and Solicitation Fees
    c. Client funds Competence and Malpractice Diligence Communication

Competency 2: The student will understand the different provisions of the Florida Bar Code of Professional Conduct by:

1. Recognizing potential conflicts and everyday ethical dilemmas faced by attorneys and paralegals in Florida
2. Utilizing research skills in writing a case brief based on a Florida case about the unauthorized practice of law
3. Analyzing a fact pattern, including an ethical violation, assesses the facts and identifies the Florida Bar Rule for Professional Conduct

Competency 3: The student will understand the ethical code of conduct promulgated by the National Association for Legal Assistants and the National Federation of Paralegal Associations by:

1. Recognizing the obligations imposed upon paralegals by the ethical codes of the national paralegal organizations NALA and NFPA
2. Discussing the significant differences between the ethical codes of NALA and NFPA and the resulting responsibilities placed on paralegals
3. Evaluating ethical scenarios from the perspective of the involved persons, such as the supervising attorney, adversary, paralegal, and client

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information