INTERVIEWING & COUNSELING

Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.    Room : 207

CLASS OVERVIEW

Interviewing and Counseling is a practical skills class. As such, classes will be largely participatory, with frequent role plays mixed with class discussion. There is no assigned text for the class. Various articles will be posted on CANVAS over the course of the quarter. Occasional assignments will require networking with professionals; practice outside of class and journaling to reflect the impact of these efforts.

Most doctrinal law school classes focus on rules and analytical thinking which is considered the foundation of the lawyer’s function. This class is about the client. We will address, inter alia, the necessary steps the successful attorney must take to develop an effective attorney-client relationship; assess the client’s needs and expectations; communicate with the client; anticipate and manage difficulties with clients and (perhaps most importantly) understand one’s own strengths, limitations and biases.

As a skills class, with considerable in-session practice and role plays, participation is essential. Therefore, students will be permitted only one absence from class. Any further absences will result in the receipt of zero credit for the class absent extraordinary circumstances. Other classes and their requirements will not excuse such absences. Interviews will not excuse such absences. Please also bear in mind that your colleagues in class will be relying on your presence and preparation for role plays in class.

At the end of the quarter, students will pair off in teams and conduct a one-hour video recorded interview session with an actor who will play a client. I will review these videos during the 8th week of class with each individual team. Therefore, there will be no formal class meeting that week. The final class will be on the 9th week, on November 21st.

There will be a $10 fee requested by the 3rd week of class to obtain sets of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, a helpful and enjoyable instrument which many of you may have already experienced. This is in preparation for Class No. 5. A considerable amount has been written about the MBTI and lawyers/law students and this information will be explored with a particular view to understanding differences between lawyers and the non-attorney population and the particular challenges faced by lawyers in the counseling role.
The topics and themes for each class meeting are listed below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 (9/26/13) | Framework and Purpose of Course  
Dealing with Client Expectations |
| 2 (10/3/13) | The Centrality of Empathy  
Listening as a Learned Skill  
Reflective Listening |
| 3 (10/10/13) | The Non-Legal Elements of the Client’s Problem  
Commencing the Interview |
| 4 (10/17/13) | Questioning the Client  
Fact Gathering & Theory Development  
Concluding the Interview |
| 5 (10/24/13) | The Lawyer’s Personality - What You Bring to the Table  
Discuss the Myers Briggs |
| 6 (10/31/13) | The Counseling Process: Clarifying Objectives,  
Identifying Alternatives & Consequences |
| 7 (11/7/13) | The Counseling Process: Decision Making |
| 8 (11/14/13) | Taped Role Plays and Consultations  
NO FORMAL CLASS MEETING |
| 9 (11/21/13) | Personal Ethical/Moral Challenges  
Counseling Challenges: The Questionable Purpose & The Difficult Client  
Wrap-Up |

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

There is no formal text for this class. Reading or writing assignments will be given each week in preparation for the class discussions or exercises that week. These assignments will be commensurate with a two unit class.