Problems in Professional Responsibility  
Credits: 2

Course Description and Information

I. Course Description
   This class focuses on the ethical issues that arise in the general routine of the practice of law, spanning client intake and retainer agreements, competence, communications, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, duty to the court and to the adversary and third parties, advertising and promotion, ending representation and fee collection. The course is limited to post-doctoral fellows, practicing in the Law School’s post-doctorate fellowship program, and will use actual cases from that program as a basis for study.

II. Prerequisites
   There are no course prerequisites, although students in this class must be admitted to the post-doctorate fellowship program and must be admitted to practice law.

III. Objectives
   Development of firm and lasting practical knowledge of the rules of professionalism as a lawyer, to serve as a foundation for a lifetime of ethical practice.

IV. Methods of Instruction
   This class will be fashioned after the model of the medical residency “rounds” in which each day’s work by each student will be analyzed by the class collectively, spotting ethical issues and evaluating permitted and advantageous responses.

V. Attendance
   It is expected that all fellows will participate in daily rounds every day, unless an unavoidable client-related conflict precludes attendance.

VI. Methods of Evaluation
   There is no final exam. Students are expected to keep a journal of the ethical issues that arise with their own matters, and prepare memos for each file related to ethical issues that require resolution. Grading will be on the basis of participation in rounds, and on the journals and memos prepared in the course of the semester.