

The Road to the Final Exam
Fletcher's Lawyers and Ethics

Instructions:

You will be randomly selected into either a law firm with three other students or onto an appellate bench with 10 other students. You start by selecting an envelope with one of the following words on them (followed by a letter): SNOWBOWL, MCCORMACK, WHITE, MARTIN, or JUDGE.

Law firm students will collectively complete a no more than two page document answering the question contained in the envelope. No additional legal research may be conducted. Use only materials found in the envelope and materials that will be available on Turtle Talk. This no more than two page document must be signed by all four members of the law firm, and is due via my email (matthew.fletcher@law.msu.edu) by 8:00 AM, October 2, 2012. Timing is everything, as this document will form the foundation of the assignment made to the judges. In other words, you are writing to judges.

Judges have a week to chill out. But by 8:00 AM on October 9, 2012 (the last class) they must email me a no more than two page document answering the question assigned in their envelope (which will be delivered on October 2, in class).

I will take the judges' papers and derive from that material a series of "canons" or "rules" that this class has articulated as the law of Lawyers and Ethics—Section 1. I will deliver "the law" to this class (not sure if by hardcopy or by email) by 5 PM on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. This will be a short paper listing canons, rules, laws, or whatever I call them that will serve as the basis for the final exam. You will understand more when you see them.

The final exam will start involve me presenting to you the law of the class (which you will already have) followed by a fact pattern. I will ask you to answer a question or two in essay form about the fact pattern in the context of the law. It'll take an hour.