

QUINNIPIAC SCHOOL OF LAW

EXTERNSHIPS: *EXAMINING THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE DUTIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF “GOOD LAWYERS”*

FALL 17 - Seminar Syllabus

Excerpts:

CLASS 5 Mon OCT 16
RP# 4 DUE for ALL

ALL STUDENTS

The Future of the Legal Profession and the Delivery of Legal Services

Assignment: *Learning from Practice, Chapter 27*

We will discuss in class both the reading and the interviews you conducted and wrote about in RP#4.

From Writing Assignments Memo:

REFLECTION PAPER # 4: Directed Topic C, due OCT 16

Note: this assignment is due AT CLASS on OCT 16, and unlike most other reflection papers, will be discussed in class.

You are entering the legal profession during a time when the profession is in the midst of some major changes, for a variety of reasons. What have you been hearing about, or noticing, at your site about the “future” of the legal profession? Find a time to “interview” and discuss with at least one experienced lawyer or judge at your site the changes they have witnessed, or are expecting or predicting about any aspect of the practice of law in their practice area. Report on this discussion, and your thoughts and reactions, about the topics discussed and any other of your own impressions.

[Note: Normally, you should interview your primary supervisor. However, you may interview a different lawyer or judge at your placement so long as they are experienced enough to comment on trends. If you have reservations about interviewing anyone at your site, please contact me for further discussion.]

CLASS 6 Mon OCT 30
RP # 5 DUE for ALL

ALL STUDENTS

What Does it Mean for Lawyers to be “Public Citizens?”

Assignment:

- The Preamble of the Rules of Professional Conduct;
- Deborah Rhode, *Lawyers as Citizens*, 50 Wm & Mary L. Rev. 1323 (2009);
- Cruz Reynoso, *The Lawyer As A Public Citizen*, 55 Me. L. Rev. 336 (2003).

From Writing Assignments Memo:

REFLECTION PAPER # 5: Directed Topic D, due OCT 30

Note: this assignment is due AT CLASS on OCT 30, and unlike most other reflection papers, will be discussed in class.

Reading:

The Preamble of the Rules of Professional Conduct;

Deborah Rhode, *Lawyers as Citizens*, 50 Wm & Mary L. Rev. 1323 (2009);

Cruz Reynoso, *The Lawyer As A Public Citizen*, 55 Me. L. Rev. 336 (2003).

Comment on your reactions to the Preamble of the RPC and to Rhode and Reynoso's thoughts on the meaning of the "Public Citizen" role of lawyers. What do you understand the duties of lawyers as public citizens to be?

Discuss how you think the lawyers at your placements do or do not incorporate this role into their work and lives as lawyers. (You may or may not see any evidence that they do.) Come to class prepared to discuss your thoughts and your paper with your classmates.

Excerpt from Final Reflection Paper Assignment:

Interview your supervisor (or another lawyer or judge) at your site regarding the "Public Citizen" role of lawyers. What understanding do they have about the duties? How do they strive to fulfill the obligations? If not, why not?

Imagine yourself working in the role of your supervisor in the future: as a judge, law clerk, lawyer in this particular practice setting, or lawyer/mediator. Discuss how you would plan to discharge your duties as a "public citizen lawyer" and incorporate them into your professional life.

If you believe you will practice in a setting very different from that of your current externship, then identify the setting in which you are most interested in practicing. Discuss as well how you would plan to discharge your duties as a "public citizen lawyer" and incorporate them into your professional life in your preferred practice setting.

Add any further reflections you may have had regarding the "Public Citizen" Lawyer AND a reaction to the book **The GOOD LAWYER**. How have the experiences that you had this semester match up -- or not -- with some or all of the ideas/themes in the book, and in the RPC Preamble? Will either the "Public Citizen" role and/or the GOOD LAWYER book affect your future identity as a lawyer? If so, how? If not, why not?