

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **LEGL 2382 Legal Ethics**

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: LEGL 1043 Introduction to Law or consent of program director.

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Professional conduct for attorneys and legal assistants, the client-lawyer relationship, and the confidentiality of information. Special focus is given to the Arkansas Model Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys, and the National Association Legal Assistant's Code of Conduct.

##### **B. Additional Information**

The emphasis of the course will be on a thorough study of the Arkansas Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Students will apply these rules to the case law, hypothetical and possible problem areas.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Given a hypothetical problem, identify all ethical issues the attorney or paralegal might face.
2. List the topics in the Arkansas Rules for Professional Conduct.
3. Recall the appropriate rule for a particular situation.
4. Define the parameters of paraprofessionals (including legal assistants) in a law firm or legal setting.
5. Given a hypothetical problem, research ethical rulings and deliver the findings and conclusions in a formal presentation.

##### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will prepare and deliver a formal presentation. Students will use in their writing the legal terminology associated with the ethical issues.

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills** - Students will identify the legal issues raised in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the practice of law.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Client-lawyer relationship
- B. Attorney competence and diligence
- C. Scope of representation
- D. Conflicts of interest
- E. Payment of fees
- F. Withdrawing or terminating representation
- G. Confidentiality
- H. Candor towards tribunal
- I. Responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistants
- J. Role of paralegal
- K. Advertising
- L. Maintaining integrity of the profession
- M. Pro bono work/legal organizations
- N. Disbarment