

Client Interviewing and Counseling – Professor Rich
First Assignment

Weeks One and Two: Read Chapter 1 and 2 from **Both** Books

For first few minutes of Class #1, be prepared to discuss background before law school, current/past employment, and what type of cases you expect to handle after graduation.

Discussion topics from Textbook:

How important are People Skills in client interactions?
Is same course of action appropriate in every case for every client?
What are differences in lawyer centered model and client centered model?
Which is better model?
What is collaborative model?
Is it better?
How important is money in client representation and counseling?
Should you accept client who is not dependable?
How important is a lawyer in the legal system?
Can client represent themselves in most cases?
Discuss roles of Guide, Guardian, and Governor as it relates to attorney role.
How important is it that client understand legal process?
Discuss following attributes of lawyers: caring, patience, empathy.

Discussion from Lincoln Lawyer:

Chapter 1:

Preface: Discuss “No Client as scary as an innocent man” J. Haller (1962)
What is “franchise” player?
Is it ethical to get referrals from bondsman?
Discuss ethics of “Christmas List” gift box
What does judge not running for re-election mean to lawyers?
Should lawyer promise to be at next case by 11:00 when not certain he could make it?
What does list of charges say about case? How much to charge?
Is it ethical to set fees on booked charges when possible charges may be reduced?
What did CC Dobbs’s name mean to Haller? What about his address?
Why did Haller ask bondsman “Why me?”
Why is Haller worried Dobbs may turn him into state bar? Or a bondsman sting operation?
Why is it likely Dobbs would have his own man for criminal referrals?
Why is Haller so careful in his answer “don’t worry, you are on Christmas list”
Is it okay to go into employee entrance at courthouse?

Chapter 2:

Discuss Haller knowing court was about to start when he saw bailiff sitting in court
Discuss Haller getting bailiff’s name wrong
Why was it necessary to advise client to cut hair and shave? What about tattoos?
Pony tails?
Discuss facts of Casey case
Is it proper for Haller to give client hope he may win case?
Why did Haller not waive right to speedy trial? Is this a good tactic?
Why is airspace important to facts in Casey case?
Is it proper to tell client he needs money for expert?
Discuss client’s statement “I checked around, judge won’t let you quit”
Discuss Haller’s statement “I gave Judge the wink”
Why is a trial the last thing a judge would want to hear?
Discuss bailiff letting lawyer back to talk after court, as a courtesy (i.e. why would Haller be given such a courtesy?)