

# Course Design and Imbedded Classroom Assessment

By Sandra L. Simpson

# Gonzaga University School of Law

## Mission and Vision

- To instill in our graduates the **ethical values, substantive knowledge, and practical skills** they need to become effective advocates and compassionate counselors. As a humanistic institution, we recognize the **essential role of human creativity, intelligence, and initiative in the construction of society and culture**. As a Jesuit institution, we are committed to educating the **whole person** to serve the public good, to engaging in a dialogue with all cultures and religious or ethical traditions, and to pursuing justice. As a Catholic institution, we believe that laws and legal institutions are subject to a **moral order** which transcends human whim and caprice. As a law school, we are committed to a healthy and respectful environment of free **intellectual inquiry and exchange, and the protection of freedom of thought**.

# Outcomes to measure (sample)

- Knowledge of ethical rules: Every graduate should have the knowledge and understanding of the model rules at a level sufficient to practice ethically as a lawyer and to pass the multi-state professional responsibility exam:
- Every student should be an effective problem solver in a team setting
- Every student should be able to generate alternative solutions and strategies to new client situations
- Every student should develop what it means to them to be an ethical lawyer, basing decisions on their self-identified moral principles.

# Three Levels of Assessment for Every Unit of Learning

- L1
- L2
- L3

# L1 classroom assessment models

- Questions and hypotheticals posed in class to assess the student's understanding of the rules from the readings and class discussions
  - Identification of legal and/or factual issues at play
  - Identification of the appropriate rule or case
  - Assessment of the strengths of the legal arguments
  - Utilization of deductive reasoning and analogy to predict the best outcome
  - Analysis of different ways for a lawyer to counsel a client to avoid the problem in the scenario

# L2 Assessments: Applying their knowledge to a new set of facts

- Multiple choice assessments on TWEN
  - L1 assessments are basic
  - L2 assessments are complex situations often involving multiple rules

# Example question

- When Lawyer moved to her small town after law school, she opened a solo practice focusing on family law and real estate law. Many of Lawyer's clients work at the local prison, a major employer in this small town. Despite working long hours, Lawyer is barely making ends meet. One day, the local Superior Court judge asked Lawyer to serve as court-appointed counsel in a civil rights claim filed by an inmate at the local prison alleging abuse by prison guards and neglect by the Warden. The judge believed that the inmate's hand-written complaint had enough merit to proceed, and the judge did not want the inmate to proceed pro se. The judge told Lawyer, "If you win, you'll be entitled to attorney's fees." The judge acknowledged, however, that the case could take months or even years to litigate. For which of the following reasons may Lawyer properly refuse the appointment from the judge? Select all that apply:

- 1. Lawyer may decline the case if she believes that representing the inmate may harm her professional reputation in this community.
- 2. Lawyer may decline the case if she in good faith believes she cannot take the financial risk involved in this representation.
- 3. Lawyer may decline the case because she does not practice in civil rights matters.
- 4. Lawyer may decline the case if Lawyer does not like criminals and believes they deserve what they get in prison.

# L3 assessment

- Taking the knowledge they learn from the book and class and going deeper to start developing their own identity and ethics as a lawyer.

# Example

- Locate a lawyer advertising video that presents a potential violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- Evaluate the advertisement for compliance with the Model Rules.
- Consider and discuss what professional identity the advertisement projects for the lawyer.