Intro to Law — Unit 17

Legal careers, ethics and access

Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Student copy. Parent-paced. No private answer keys. Use extra paper for full explanations. All optional oral tasks have equal written or parent-observed alternatives.

161. Different careers have different authority

intro-law-l161 | suggested week 33 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Explain and apply different careers have different authority to a fictional original and changed record.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Today’s focus — Different careers have different authority
A lawyer’s authorization, a judge’s neutral role, a paralegal’s supervised tasks and a court reporter’s record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.

Reasoning practice: Write the legal condition on one line and the supplied fact on the next. Explain the link instead of merely copying both. A different result requires a changed fact, rule or justified interpretation—not a stronger opinion.

Assignment record: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients’legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional court reporter produces an accurate transcript while a judge decides issues and lawyers advocate. These roles have different functions and authority. A paralegal’s supervised research is not the

same as independent representation. Interest or experience does not replace required training, licensing or authorized scope.

Numbered assignment

1. Fact discipline — Different careers have different authority: From this record, quote or accurately paraphrase two legally significant details. Label each as a supplied/stipulated fact, an allegation or a missing fact as appropriate; explain why the distinction matters.
Record: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients'legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.

intro-law-l161-q01

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2. Principle check: Restate the distinction taught in Different careers have different authority in your own words. Identify one limit that prevents treating it as a universal rule. Use the principle printed above, not an unsupported internet summary.

intro-law-l161-q02

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3. Apply the original record: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients'legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Question: Which role boundary needs checking? Give a reasoned answer with a specific fact-to-rule link.

intro-law-l161-q03

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4. Counterfactual: Begin with the original record above, then change only this fact: The task is organizing a fictional record under a supervising lawyer's direction.
Explain how the analysis changes and what remains unresolved.

intro-law-l161-q04

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5. Source card exercise: For Different careers have different authority, use the complete supplied offline card below. Record its jurisdiction/type and exact URL. Explain what it can contribute, and one reason it cannot by itself guarantee a real person's outcome. No browsing or separate registry lookup is required.

Supplied offline source card
Title: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Legal Occupations
Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters.
Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

intro-law-l161-q05

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6. Neutral explanation: In 80–120 words, or a 60–90 second private explanation with an equivalent script/in-person option, answer the original Different careers have different authority issue for a new reader.

Include the governing distinction, two supplied details, and the most important uncertainty or limit. Do not add an accusation or recommend real action.

intro-law-l161-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Different careers have different authority:
A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients'legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Read this principle: A lawyer's authorization, a judge's neutral role, a paralegal's supervised tasks and a court reporter's record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Different careers have different authority:
Original: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients'legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Changed fact: The task is organizing a fictional record under a supervising lawyer's direction.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains. Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

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Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
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Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Legal Research for Beginners
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-research-for-beginners
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index

Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

162. Competence includes checking limits

intro-law-l162 | suggested week 33 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Explain and apply competence includes checking limits to a fictional original and changed record.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Today’s focus — Competence includes checking limits
Competence means more than confidently answering. Professionals must recognize knowledge limits, research relevant law and use appropriate supervision or assistance under their rules. A student demonstrates responsibility by flagging uncertainty rather than pretending to be a lawyer.

Reasoning practice: Write the legal condition on one line and the supplied fact on the next. Explain the link instead of merely copying both. A different result requires a changed fact, rule or justified interpretation—not a stronger opinion.

Assignment record: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional lawyer encounters unfamiliar law and arranges appropriate competent assistance rather than guessing. That process respects knowledge limits. Texas competence rules and their actual conditions matter; confidence alone is not competence. A student should flag uncertainty and provide education, not pretend the course authorizes legal advice.

Numbered assignment

1. Fact discipline — Competence includes checking limits: From this record, quote or accurately paraphrase two legally significant details. Label each as a supplied/stipulated fact, an allegation or a missing fact as appropriate; explain why the distinction matters.
Record: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.

intro-law-l162-q01

2. Principle check: Restate the distinction taught in Competence includes checking limits in your own words. Identify one limit that prevents treating it as a universal rule. Use the principle printed above, not an unsupported internet summary.

intro-law-l162-q02

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3. Apply the original record: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Question: What responsible research steps were omitted? Give a reasoned answer with a specific fact-to-rule link.

intro-law-l162-q03

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4. Counterfactual: Begin with the original record above, then change only this fact: The trainee documents the gap and seeks authorized supervision within the fictional office.
Explain how the analysis changes and what remains unresolved.

intro-law-l162-q04

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5. Source card exercise: For Competence includes checking limits, use the complete supplied offline card below. Record its jurisdiction/type and exact URL. Explain what it can contribute, and one reason it cannot by itself guarantee a real person’s outcome. No browsing or separate registry lookup is required.

Supplied offline source card
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Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters. Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

intro-law-l162-q05

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6. Neutral explanation: In 80–120 words, or a 60–90 second private explanation with an equivalent script/in-person option, answer the original Competence includes checking limits issue for a new reader. Include the governing distinction, two supplied details, and the most important uncertainty or limit. Do not add an accusation or recommend real action.

intro-law-l162-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Competence includes checking limits:
A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Read this principle: Competence means more than confidently answering. Professionals must recognize

knowledge limits, research relevant law and use appropriate supervision or assistance under their rules. A student demonstrates responsibility by flagging uncertainty rather than pretending to be a lawyer.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Competence includes checking limits:
Original: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Changed fact: The trainee documents the gap and seeks authorized supervision within the fictional office.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains.
Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
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Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
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Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short

clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

163. Conflicts concern divided duties

intro-law-l163 | suggested week 33 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Explain and apply conflicts concern divided duties to a fictional original and changed record.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Today’s focus — Conflicts concern divided duties
A conflict can arise when responsibilities or interests materially interfere with professional duties. Rules about consent, disclosure and whether representation is permitted vary; some conflicts cannot be cured by a casual agreement. Identify relationships without collecting real client information. In Texas, Rule 1.06(a) prohibits a lawyer from representing opposing parties in the same litigation; the consent provision for other situations does not erase that prohibition.

Reasoning practice: Write the legal condition on one line and the supplied fact on the next. Explain the link instead of merely copying both. A different result requires a changed fact, rule or justified interpretation—not a stronger opinion.

Assignment record: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A Texas hypothetical asks one lawyer to represent opposing parties in the same litigation. Rule 1.06(a)prohibits that representation. The consent provision for other situations does not erase this same-litigation prohibition. The worked answer identifies the precise category rather than claiming friendship or any signature cures every conflict.

Numbered assignment

1. Fact discipline — Conflicts concern divided duties: From this record, quote or accurately paraphrase two legally significant details. Label each as a supplied/stipulated fact, an allegation or a missing fact as appropriate; explain why the distinction matters.
Record: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.

intro-law-l163-q01

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2. Principle check: Restate the distinction taught in Conflicts concern divided duties in your own words. Identify one limit that prevents treating it as a universal rule. Use the principle printed above, not an unsupported internet summary.

intro-law-l163-q02

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3. Apply the original record: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Question: What professional concern is present? Give a reasoned answer with a specific fact-to-rule link.

intro-law-l163-q03

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4. Counterfactual: Begin with the original record above, then change only this fact: The scenario instead involves unrelated matters with no supplied adverse interests.
Explain how the analysis changes and what remains unresolved.

intro-law-l163-q04

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5. Source card exercise: For Conflicts concern divided duties, use the complete supplied offline card below. Record its jurisdiction/type and exact URL. Explain what it can contribute, and one reason it cannot by itself guarantee a real person’s outcome. No browsing or separate registry lookup is required.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL:
https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

intro-law-l163-q05

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6. Neutral explanation: In 80–120 words, or a 60–90 second private explanation with an equivalent script/in-person option, answer the original Conflicts concern divided duties issue for a new reader. Include the governing distinction, two supplied details, and the most important uncertainty or limit. Do not add an accusation or recommend real action.

intro-law-l163-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Conflicts concern divided duties:
A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Read this principle: A conflict can arise when responsibilities or interests materially interfere with professional duties. Rules about consent, disclosure and whether representation is permitted vary; some conflicts cannot be cured by a casual agreement. Identify relationships without collecting real client information. In Texas, Rule 1.06(a) prohibits a lawyer from representing opposing parties in the same litigation; the consent provision for other situations does not erase that prohibition.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Conflicts concern divided duties:
Original: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Changed fact: The scenario instead involves unrelated matters with no supplied adverse interests.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains.
Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
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Source type: official-rule-index
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Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf

Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
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Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

164. Confidentiality and privilege are not identical

intro-law-l164 | suggested week 33 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Explain and apply confidentiality and privilege are not identical to a fictional original and changed record.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Today’s focus — Confidentiality and privilege are not identical
Professional confidentiality duties can cover information beyond a narrow evidentiary privilege. Privilege concerns protection against compelled disclosure under applicable law and conditions. Exceptions, waiver and role matter; do not promise that every conversation with any legal worker is absolutely secret.

Reasoning practice: Write the legal condition on one line and the supplied fact on the next. Explain the link instead of merely copying both. A different result requires a changed fact, rule or justified interpretation—not a stronger opinion.

Assignment record: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A qualifying confidential legal-advice communication is stipulated in a model with no waiver or exception. That supports the supplied privilege analysis. Ethical confidentiality can protect additional client information beyond privilege. Neither concept means every conversation with anyone near a courthouse is absolutely secret forever.

Numbered assignment

1. Fact discipline — Confidentiality and privilege are not identical: From this record, quote or accurately paraphrase two legally significant details. Label each as a supplied/stipulated fact, an allegation or a missing fact as appropriate; explain why the distinction matters.
Record: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.

intro-law-l164-q01

2. Principle check: Restate the distinction taught in Confidentiality and privilege are not identical in your own words. Identify one limit that prevents treating it as a universal rule. Use the principle printed above, not an unsupported internet summary.

intro-law-l164-q02

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3. Apply the original record: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
Question: Which required relationships and conditions are missing? Give a reasoned answer with a specific fact-to-rule link.

intro-law-l164-q03

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4. Counterfactual: Begin with the original record above, then change only this fact: The simulation supplies a qualifying confidential lawyer-client legal-advice communication and no waiver or exception.
Explain how the analysis changes and what remains unresolved.

intro-law-l164-q04

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5. Source card exercise: For Confidentiality and privilege are not identical, use the complete supplied offline card below. Record its jurisdiction/type and exact URL. Explain what it can contribute, and one reason it cannot by itself guarantee a real person’s outcome. No browsing or separate registry lookup is required.

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https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

intro-law-l164-q05

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6. Neutral explanation: In 80–120 words, or a 60–90 second private explanation with an equivalent script/in-person option, answer the original Confidentiality and privilege are not identical issue for a new reader. Include the governing distinction, two supplied details, and the most important uncertainty or limit. Do not add an accusation or recommend real action.

intro-law-l164-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Confidentiality and privilege are not identical:
A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
Read this principle: Professional confidentiality duties can cover information beyond a narrow evidentiary privilege. Privilege concerns protection against compelled disclosure under applicable law and conditions. Exceptions, waiver and role matter; do not promise that every conversation with any legal worker is absolutely secret.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Confidentiality and privilege are not identical:
Original: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
Changed fact: The simulation supplies a qualifying confidential lawyer-client legal-advice communication and no waiver or exception.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains. Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
Title: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Legal Occupations
Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters. Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Legal Research for Beginners
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-research-for-beginners
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
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Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)

Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

165. Access to justice is a systems question

intro-law-l165 | suggested week 33 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Explain and apply access to justice is a systems question to a fictional original and changed record.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Today’s focus — Access to justice is a systems question
Cost, language, disability, geography and information barriers can affect access. Court self-help materials and legal-aid information have different roles from individual representation. Eligibility and service scope vary; researching resources is not a guarantee of representation or a requirement to disclose need.

Reasoning practice: Write the legal condition on one line and the supplied fact on the next. Explain the link instead of merely copying both. A different result requires a changed fact, rule or justified interpretation—not a stronger opinion.

Assignment record: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional self-help glossary explains court vocabulary but promises no individual representation. It may reduce an information barrier without creating an attorney-client relationship. Legal-aid eligibility and service scope require actual program information. A general guide must not advertise a free lawyer for every reader’s civil dispute.

Numbered assignment

1. Fact discipline — Access to justice is a systems question: From this record, quote or accurately paraphrase two legally significant details. Label each as a supplied/stipulated fact, an allegation or a missing fact as appropriate; explain why the distinction matters.
Record: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.

intro-law-l165-q01

2. Principle check: Restate the distinction taught in Access to justice is a systems question in your own words. Identify one limit that prevents treating it as a universal rule. Use the principle printed above, not an unsupported internet summary.

intro-law-l165-q02

3. Apply the original record: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
Question: Why is that promise overbroad? Give a reasoned answer with a specific fact-to-rule link.

intro-law-l165-q03

4. Counterfactual: Begin with the original record above, then change only this fact: The page accurately describes an informational guide and clearly states its limits.
Explain how the analysis changes and what remains unresolved.

intro-law-l165-q04

5. Source card exercise: For Access to justice is a systems question, use the complete supplied offline card below. Record its jurisdiction/type and exact URL. Explain what it can contribute, and one reason it cannot by itself guarantee a real person’s outcome. No browsing or separate registry lookup is required.

Supplied offline source card
Title: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Legal Occupations
Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters.
Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

intro-law-l165-q05

6. Neutral explanation: In 80–120 words, or a 60–90 second private explanation with an equivalent script/in-person option, answer the original Access to justice is a systems question issue for a new reader. Include the governing distinction, two supplied details, and the most important uncertainty or limit. Do not add an accusation or recommend real action.

intro-law-l165-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Access to justice is a systems question:
A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.

Read this principle: Cost, language, disability, geography and information barriers can affect access. Court self-help materials and legal-aid information have different roles from individual representation. Eligibility and service scope vary; researching resources is not a guarantee of representation or a requirement to disclose need.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Access to justice is a systems question:
Original: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
Changed fact: The page accurately describes an informational guide and clearly states its limits.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains. Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
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Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
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Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Important Case Research Tips
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/case-law-research/important-research-tips
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
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Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality

includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

166. Ethical research leaves a transparent record

intro-law-l166 | suggested week 34 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Explain and apply ethical research leaves a transparent record to a fictional original and changed record.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Today’s focus — Ethical research leaves a transparent record
A reliable work product identifies sources, scope, uncertainties and updates. Do not fabricate citations, omit known contrary authority or misstate a holding to favor a side. Citation format matters, but an elegant citation to a nonexistent source is not evidence.

Reasoning practice: Write the legal condition on one line and the supplied fact on the next. Explain the link instead of merely copying both. A different result requires a changed fact, rule or justified interpretation—not a stronger opinion.

Assignment record: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional memo includes a later amendment and explains that its effective date follows the event. That transparent comparison is better than hiding the amendment. The writer must still check transition and retroactivity rules. Honest advocacy states why authority matters or does not, rather than suppressing inconvenient research.

Numbered assignment

1. Fact discipline — Ethical research leaves a transparent record: From this record, quote or accurately paraphrase two legally significant details. Label each as a supplied/stipulated fact, an allegation or a missing fact as appropriate; explain why the distinction matters.
Record: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.

intro-law-l166-q01

2. Principle check: Restate the distinction taught in Ethical research leaves a transparent record in your own words. Identify one limit that prevents treating it as a universal rule. Use the principle printed above, not an unsupported internet summary.

intro-law-l166-q02

3. Apply the original record: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.
Question: What correction is required? Give a reasoned answer with a specific fact-to-rule link.

intro-law-l166-q03

4. Counterfactual: Begin with the original record above, then change only this fact: The amendment is not applicable to the event date under the supplied transition rule.
Explain how the analysis changes and what remains unresolved.

intro-law-l166-q04

5. Source card exercise: For Ethical research leaves a transparent record, use the complete supplied offline card below. Record its jurisdiction/type and exact URL. Explain what it can contribute, and one reason it cannot by itself guarantee a real person’s outcome. No browsing or separate registry lookup is required.

Supplied offline source card
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Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters.
Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

intro-law-l166-q05

6. Neutral explanation: In 80–120 words, or a 60–90 second private explanation with an equivalent script/in-person option, answer the original Ethical research leaves a transparent record issue for a new reader. Include the governing distinction, two supplied details, and the most important uncertainty or limit. Do not add an accusation or recommend real action.

intro-law-l166-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Ethical research leaves a transparent record:
A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.
Read this principle: A reliable work product identifies sources, scope, uncertainties and updates. Do not

fabricate citations, omit known contrary authority or misstate a holding to favor a side. Citation format matters, but an elegant citation to a nonexistent source is not evidence.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Ethical research leaves a transparent record:
Original: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer's preferred argument.
Changed fact: The amendment is not applicable to the event date under the supplied transition rule.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains.
Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
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Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
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Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered

task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

167. Project 17: Legal careers, ethics and access

intro-law-l167 | suggested week 34 | about 65 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Create a complete, privacy-safe legal careers, ethics and access project using six specified deliverables.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Project brief: Create a fictional legal-career and ethics orientation portfolio: compare four roles, resolve a conflict vignette, distinguish confidentiality from privilege and audit a mock research memo. Offer a two-minute career briefing or equivalent written briefing with no provider contact.

Build an educational artifact by organizing facts before recommending anything. A chart should label its columns; a map should explain its symbols; a memo should separate issue, rule, application and conclusion. If a fact is absent, write unknown rather than fill it in. A polished appearance never substitutes for accurate reasoning.

Complete fictional fact bank:
Case 1 — Different careers have different authority
Principle: A lawyer’s authorization, a judge’s neutral role, a paralegal’s supervised tasks and a court reporter’s record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
Original record: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients’legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Changed record: The task is organizing a fictional record under a supervising lawyer’s direction.

Case 2 — Competence includes checking limits
Principle: Competence means more than confidently answering. Professionals must recognize knowledge limits, research relevant law and use appropriate supervision or assistance under their rules. A student demonstrates responsibility by flagging uncertainty rather than pretending to be a lawyer.
Original record: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Changed record: The trainee documents the gap and seeks authorized supervision within the fictional office.

Case 3 — Conflicts concern divided duties
Principle: A conflict can arise when responsibilities or interests materially interfere with professional duties. Rules about consent, disclosure and whether representation is permitted vary; some conflicts cannot be cured by a casual agreement. Identify relationships without collecting real client information. In Texas, Rule 1.06(a) prohibits a lawyer from representing opposing parties in the same litigation; the consent provision for other situations does not erase that prohibition.
Original record: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Changed record: The scenario instead involves unrelated matters with no supplied adverse interests.

Case 4 — Confidentiality and privilege are not identical

Principle: Professional confidentiality duties can cover information beyond a narrow evidentiary privilege. Privilege concerns protection against compelled disclosure under applicable law and conditions. Exceptions, waiver and role matter; do not promise that every conversation with any legal worker is absolutely secret.
Original record: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
Changed record: The simulation supplies a qualifying confidential lawyer-client legal-advice communication and no waiver or exception.

Case 5 — Access to justice is a systems question
Principle: Cost, language, disability, geography and information barriers can affect access. Court self-help materials and legal-aid information have different roles from individual representation. Eligibility and service scope vary; researching resources is not a guarantee of representation or a requirement to disclose need.
Original record: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
Changed record: The page accurately describes an informational guide and clearly states its limits.

Case 6 — Ethical research leaves a transparent record
Principle: A reliable work product identifies sources, scope, uncertainties and updates. Do not fabricate citations, omit known contrary authority or misstate a holding to favor a side. Citation format matters, but an elegant citation to a nonexistent source is not evidence.
Original record: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.
Changed record: The amendment is not applicable to the event date under the supplied transition rule.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional court reporter produces an accurate transcript while a judge decides issues and lawyers advocate. These roles have different functions and authority. A paralegal’s supervised research is not the same as independent representation. Interest or experience does not replace required training, licensing or authorized scope.

Numbered assignment

1. Compare lawyer, judge, paralegal and court reporter roles.

intro-law-l167-q01

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2. Audit the outdated-rule trainee’s missing checks.

intro-law-l167-q02

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3. Resolve the same-litigation opposing-party conflict vignette.

intro-law-l167-q03

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4. Distinguish ethical confidentiality and evidentiary privilege.

intro-law-l167-q04

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5. Correct the every-civil-reader-free-lawyer advertisement.

intro-law-l167-q05

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6. Restore the omitted amendment to a transparent research memo.

intro-law-l167-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Project 17: Legal careers, ethics and access:
A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients'legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Read this principle: A lawyer's authorization, a judge's neutral role, a paralegal's supervised tasks and a court reporter's record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Project 17: Legal careers, ethics and access:
Original: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients'legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Changed fact: The task is organizing a fictional record under a supervising lawyer's direction.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains.
Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
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Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
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Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

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Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance

Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Important Case Research Tips
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/case-law-research/important-research-tips
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

168. Spiral lab 17: facts,rules and changed conditions

intro-law-l168 | suggested week 34 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Retrieve and compare six supplied scenarios from current and earlier units.

Instruction

Spaced practice 17 connects current concepts with earlier reasoning. Try recalling the distinction before rereading the printed principle; then revise using it. Retrieval is practice, not a memory contest. Explain why the changed fact matters rather than only changing the answer.

Current unit context: Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

For each task, the complete principle, original record and changed fact appear in the question. No earlier assignment or outside website is needed.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A Texas hypothetical asks one lawyer to represent opposing parties in the same litigation. Rule 1.06(a)prohibits that representation. The consent provision for other situations does not erase this same-litigation prohibition. The worked answer identifies the precise category rather than claiming friendship or any signature cures every conflict.

Numbered assignment

1. Retrieval connection from unit 17, Different careers have different authority:
Principle: A lawyer’s authorization, a judge’s neutral role, a paralegal’s supervised tasks and a court reporter’s record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
Record: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients’legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Change: The task is organizing a fictional record under a supervising lawyer’s direction.
Without inventing facts, name the central distinction, and explain one before/after difference. Then explain why an unsupported universal conclusion would be unsafe.

intro-law-l168-q01

2. Retrieval connection from unit 17, Confidentiality and privilege are not identical:
Principle: Professional confidentiality duties can cover information beyond a narrow evidentiary privilege. Privilege concerns protection against compelled disclosure under applicable law and conditions. Exceptions, waiver and role matter; do not promise that every conversation with any legal worker is absolutely secret.
Record: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
Change: The simulation supplies a qualifying confidential lawyer-client legal-advice communication and no waiver or exception.
Without inventing facts, name the central distinction, and explain one before/after difference. Then explain why an unsupported universal conclusion would be unsafe.

intro-law-l168-q02

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3. Retrieval connection from unit 16, Negotiation uses options and limits:
Principle: Generate multiple possible agreements, compare objective criteria and recognize a no-agreement alternative. Cooperation is not coerced consent. A simulated negotiation may end without agreement if the options do not satisfy lawful limits and informed preferences.
Record: Fictional clubs can use room A at noon or room B at one; one club has a suppliednoon-only availability.
Change: Both rooms are unavailable under a corrected schedule.
Without inventing facts, name the central distinction, and explain one before/after difference. Then explain why an unsupported universal conclusion would be unsafe.

intro-law-l168-q03

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4. Retrieval connection from unit 16, Oral advocacy is structured reasoning:
Principle: An oral argument should state the requested result, rule, relevant facts, application and strongest limitation. Listening and answering a question matters more than volume or theatrical confidence. Offer a written script or private in-person presentation with equal reasoning criteria.
Record: Model record: ten folders were owed, eight arrived, and each missing folder has a stipulated recoverable loss of three units. No other recoverable loss is supplied. An advocate has 90 seconds to argue that the fictional missing-folder record supports a stipulated 6 loss, not an unsupported 600 penalty.
Change: The decision maker asks whether both folders later arrived with no remaining model loss.
Without inventing facts, name the central distinction, and explain one before/after difference. Then explain why an unsupported universal conclusion would be unsafe.

intro-law-l168-q04

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5. Retrieval connection from unit 14, Screenshots need context and provenance:
Principle: A digital image can be altered, cropped, mislabeled or out of date. Evaluate origin, completeness, date and corroboration before treating it as authority or proof. Do not use invasive methods to investigate; classroom provenance records are supplied and fictional.
Record: An image claims a new statute passed, but the visible heading says introduced bill.
Change: The source card supplies an official enacted text and effective date.
Without inventing facts, name the central distinction, and explain one before/after difference. Then explain why an unsupported universal conclusion would be unsafe.

intro-law-l168-q05

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6. Retrieval connection from unit 1, Educational information is not representation:
Principle: General legal information describes institutions or rules. Individual legal advice evaluates someone’s actual rights, deadlines and strategy. A beginner should identify when jurisdiction, facts and professional judgment are missing rather than claiming to represent another person.
Record: A student sees a fictional contract worksheet and offers to guarantee a neighbor’s real lawsuit outcome.
Change: Instead the student creates a general source list with no recommendation about the neighbor’s case.
Without inventing facts, name the central distinction, and explain one before/after difference. Then explain why an unsupported universal conclusion would be unsafe.

intro-law-l168-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Spiral lab 17: facts,rules and changed conditions:
A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Read this principle: A conflict can arise when responsibilities or interests materially interfere with professional duties. Rules about consent, disclosure and whether representation is permitted vary; some conflicts cannot be cured by a casual agreement. Identify relationships without collecting real client information. In Texas, Rule 1.06(a) prohibits a lawyer from representing opposing parties in the same litigation; the consent provision for other situations does not erase that prohibition.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Spiral lab 17: facts,rules and changed conditions:
Original: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Changed fact: The scenario instead involves unrelated matters with no supplied adverse interests.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains.
Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
Title: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Legal Occupations
Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters. Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Legal Research for Beginners
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-research-for-beginners
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Important Case Research Tips
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/case-law-research/important-research-tips
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: US Courts: Civil Cases
Exact URL: https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/types-cases/civil-cases
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal judiciary official overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Complaint, service, discovery, settlement, trial and typical preponderance standard; not a Texas procedural manual.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Cornell LII/Wex: Contract
Exact URL: https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/contracts
Jurisdiction/scope: US academic secondary overview; state law varies
Source type: academic-secondary-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Mutual assent, consideration, capacity, legality and remedies. Academic explanatory source, not Texas binding authority.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Cornell LII/Wex: Mediation
Exact URL: https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/mediation
Jurisdiction/scope: US academic secondary overview; program and state law vary
Source type: academic-secondary-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Mediator ordinarily facilitates rather than imposes a merits decision; an agreement can have legal consequences.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Cornell LII/Wex: Arbitration
Exact URL: https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/arbitration
Jurisdiction/scope: US academic secondary overview; agreement and governing law matter
Source type: academic-secondary-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Authority, scope, binding effect and review are not universal. Course does not adopt a blanket claim about all arbitration.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson's original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: US Copyright Office: What is Copyright?
Exact URL: https://www.copyright.gov/what-is-copyright/
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official agency explanation

Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Original expression, fixed works, exclusive rights and limitations; ideas are not protected as expression.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: US Copyright Office: Fair Use Index
Exact URL: https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official agency explanation
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Four-factor, case-specific analysis; no guaranteed word/page/percentage safe harbor. Index updatedNovember 2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Attorney General: Consumer Protection
Exact URL: https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official agency overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Education, complaints and public-interest civil enforcement; agency information is not private representation.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

169. Unit 17 review: Legal careers, ethics and access

intro-law-l169 | suggested week 34 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Revise six overconfident conclusions using accurate rules, facts and limits.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Review method: A conclusion is only as strong as its rule and factual support. At each station, identify the editor’s overclaim, replace it with a supported statement, and explain the limit. Revisit any station that mixes an allegation with a finding or a model with actual law. Use source cards to check scope, not to collect personal information. The station records are fully printed below.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional self-help glossary explains court vocabulary but promises no individual representation. It may reduce an information barrier without creating an attorney-client relationship. Legal-aid eligibility and service scope require actual program information. A general guide must not advertise a free lawyer for every reader’s civil dispute.

Numbered assignment

1. Review station 1 — Different careers have different authority
Principle: A lawyer’s authorization, a judge’s neutral role, a paralegal’s supervised tasks and a court reporter’s record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
Record: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients’legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
An editor says: The short story proves every legal issue and no qualification is needed. Write a three-part correction:(a)answer Which role boundary needs checking? (b)name the key supporting detail;(c)state the remaining limit. Use the printed principle.

intro-law-l169-q01

2. Review station 2 — Competence includes checking limits
Principle: Competence means more than confidently answering. Professionals must recognize knowledge limits, research relevant law and use appropriate supervision or assistance under their rules. A student demonstrates responsibility by flagging uncertainty rather than pretending to be a lawyer.
Record: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
An editor says: The short story proves every legal issue and no qualification is needed. Write a three-part correction:(a)answer What responsible research steps were omitted? (b)name the key supporting detail;(c)state the remaining limit. Use the printed principle.

intro-law-l169-q02

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3. Review station 3 — Conflicts concern divided duties
Principle: A conflict can arise when responsibilities or interests materially interfere with professional duties. Rules about consent, disclosure and whether representation is permitted vary; some conflicts cannot be cured by a casual agreement. Identify relationships without collecting real client information. In Texas, Rule 1.06(a) prohibits a lawyer from representing opposing parties in the same litigation; the consent provision for other situations does not erase that prohibition.
Record: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
An editor says: The short story proves every legal issue and no qualification is needed. Write a three-part correction:(a)answer What professional concern is present? (b)name the key supporting detail;(c)state the remaining limit. Use the printed principle.

intro-law-l169-q03

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4. Review station 4 — Confidentiality and privilege are not identical
Principle: Professional confidentiality duties can cover information beyond a narrow evidentiary privilege. Privilege concerns protection against compelled disclosure under applicable law and conditions. Exceptions, waiver and role matter; do not promise that every conversation with any legal worker is absolutely secret.
Record: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
An editor says: The short story proves every legal issue and no qualification is needed. Write a three-part correction:(a)answer Which required relationships and conditions are missing? (b)name the key supporting detail;(c)state the remaining limit. Use the printed principle.

intro-law-l169-q04

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5. Review station 5 — Access to justice is a systems question
Principle: Cost, language, disability, geography and information barriers can affect access. Court self-help materials and legal-aid information have different roles from individual representation. Eligibility and service scope vary; researching resources is not a guarantee of representation or a requirement to disclose need.
Record: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
An editor says: The short story proves every legal issue and no qualification is needed. Write a three-part correction:(a)answer Why is that promise overbroad? (b)name the key supporting detail;(c)state the remaining limit. Use the printed principle.

intro-law-l169-q05

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6. Review station 6 — Ethical research leaves a transparent record
Principle: A reliable work product identifies sources, scope, uncertainties and updates. Do not fabricate citations, omit known contrary authority or misstate a holding to favor a side. Citation format matters, but an elegant citation to a nonexistent source is not evidence.
Record: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.
An editor says: The short story proves every legal issue and no qualification is needed. Write a three-part correction:(a)answer What correction is required? (b)name the key supporting detail;(c)state the remaining limit. Use the printed principle.

intro-law-l169-q06

Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Unit 17 review: Legal careers, ethics and access:
A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
Read this principle: Cost, language, disability, geography and information barriers can affect access. Court self-help materials and legal-aid information have different roles from individual representation. Eligibility and service scope vary; researching resources is not a guarantee of representation or a requirement to disclose need.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Unit 17 review: Legal careers, ethics and access:
Original: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
Changed fact: The page accurately describes an informational guide and clearly states its limits.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains. Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
Title: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Legal Occupations
Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters. Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Legal Research for Beginners
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-research-for-beginners
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Important Case Research Tips
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/case-law-research/important-research-tips

Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.

170. Unit 17 assessment: Legal careers, ethics and access

intro-law-l170 | suggested week 34 | about 40 minutes;split sessions as needed

Objective

Integrate unit rules, facts, source limits and fair counterarguments.

Instruction

Legal work includes lawyers, judges, paralegals, legal assistants, court reporters and other roles with different training, authority and duties. This course does not qualify a learner to practice law or provide legal advice. Professional ethics require role-specific attention to competence, conflicts, honesty and protected information. Confidentiality and evidentiary privilege are related but distinct and have limits; avoid absolute promises. Access-to-justice research can examine reliable information and barriers without seeking help for a real dispute or contacting a provider for an assignment.

Assessment directions: This is an open-resource application assessment. The principles and fictional records are supplied in the questions so that access to a website or earlier paperwork is unnecessary. Work independently at first if appropriate; then a parent may discuss reasoning and invite a correction. Label any assistance. Use IRAC where requested, show units in calculations, and distinguish a supplied rule from an actual legal claim. There is no assigned pass threshold or fixed deadline. The parent may split a longer assessment across sessions.

Reasoning example below is separate from the assessment records; use its method, not an unsupported outcome.

Method: First identify the actor and issue. Read the supplied principle as a limited model or overview, not a universal rule. Mark agreed facts, allegations and unknowns. Link a fact to each relevant condition. Consider a different interpretation and state a conditional conclusion when authority or facts are incomplete. Your reasons matter more than choosing a side. Use only the fictional record; no real case, private document or external contact is needed.

Safety: Legal education only, not individualized legal advice. All disputes and records are fictional classroom simulations. Do not file, pay, contact police/courts/parties, visit a courthouse, investigate a real person, or disclose private family/case information. Use supplied facts; personal disclosure is never required. Written or private in-person alternatives replace every recording activity.

Worked teaching example

A fictional lawyer encounters unfamiliar law and arranges appropriate competent assistance rather than guessing. That process respects knowledge limits. Texas competence rules and their actual conditions matter; confidence alone is not competence. A student should flag uncertainty and provide education, not pretend the course authorizes legal advice.

Numbered assignment

1. Assessment record — unit 17, Different careers have different authority
Supplied principle: A lawyer’s authorization, a judge’s neutral role, a paralegal’s supervised tasks and a court reporter’s record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
Original facts: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients’legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
Assessment change: The task is organizing a fictional record under a supervising lawyer’s direction.
Analyze the changed record in four labeled parts: issue, relevant rule, application and a qualified conclusion. Identify the original inference that must be revised or explain why the same limit remains. No

real legal outcome is requested.

intro-law-l170-q01

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2. Assessment record — unit 17, Competence includes checking limits
Supplied principle: Competence means more than confidently answering. Professionals must recognize knowledge limits, research relevant law and use appropriate supervision or assistance under their rules. A student demonstrates responsibility by flagging uncertainty rather than pretending to be a lawyer.
Original facts: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Assessment change: The trainee documents the gap and seeks authorized supervision within the fictional office.
Analyze the changed record in four labeled parts: issue, relevant rule, application and a qualified conclusion. Identify the original inference that must be revised or explain why the same limit remains. No real legal outcome is requested.

intro-law-l170-q02

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3. Assessment record — unit 17, Conflicts concern divided duties
Supplied principle: A conflict can arise when responsibilities or interests materially interfere with professional duties. Rules about consent, disclosure and whether representation is permitted vary; some conflicts cannot be cured by a casual agreement. Identify relationships without collecting real client information. In Texas, Rule 1.06(a) prohibits a lawyer from representing opposing parties in the same litigation; the consent provision for other situations does not erase that prohibition.
Original facts: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Assessment change: The scenario instead involves unrelated matters with no supplied adverse interests.
Analyze the changed record in four labeled parts: issue, relevant rule, application and a qualified conclusion. Identify the original inference that must be revised or explain why the same limit remains. No real legal outcome is requested.

intro-law-l170-q03

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4. Assessment record — unit 17, Confidentiality and privilege are not identical
Supplied principle: Professional confidentiality duties can cover information beyond a narrow evidentiary privilege. Privilege concerns protection against compelled disclosure under applicable law and conditions. Exceptions, waiver and role matter; do not promise that every conversation with any legal worker is absolutely secret.
Original facts: A fictional student says any conversation near a courthouse is automatically privileged forever.
Assessment change: The simulation supplies a qualifying confidential lawyer-client legal-advice communication and no waiver or exception.
Analyze the changed record in four labeled parts: issue, relevant rule, application and a qualified conclusion. Identify the original inference that must be revised or explain why the same limit remains. No real legal outcome is requested.

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5. Assessment record — unit 17, Access to justice is a systems question
Supplied principle: Cost, language, disability, geography and information barriers can affect access. Court self-help materials and legal-aid information have different roles from individual representation. Eligibility

and service scope vary; researching resources is not a guarantee of representation or a requirement to disclose need.
Original facts: A fictional information page advertises that every reader automatically gets a free lawyer for every civil dispute.
Assessment change: The page accurately describes an informational guide and clearly states its limits.
Analyze the changed record in four labeled parts: issue, relevant rule, application and a qualified conclusion. Identify the original inference that must be revised or explain why the same limit remains. No real legal outcome is requested.

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6. Assessment record — unit 17, Ethical research leaves a transparent record
Supplied principle: A reliable work product identifies sources, scope, uncertainties and updates. Do not fabricate citations, omit known contrary authority or misstate a holding to favor a side. Citation format matters, but an elegant citation to a nonexistent source is not evidence.
Original facts: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.
Assessment change: The amendment is not applicable to the event date under the supplied transition rule.
Analyze the changed record in four labeled parts: issue, relevant rule, application and a qualified conclusion. Identify the original inference that must be revised or explain why the same limit remains. No real legal outcome is requested.

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7. Comparison task: Use these two records.
A: A fictional paralegal is described as independently deciding clients’legal strategy with no lawyer supervision or other authority.
A principle: A lawyer’s authorization, a judge’s neutral role, a paralegal’s supervised tasks and a court reporter’s record work are not interchangeable. Training and licensing requirements vary by role and jurisdiction. Interest in a career does not itself authorize legal practice.
B: A fictional memo deletes a supplied later amendment because it weakens the writer’s preferred argument.
B principle: A reliable work product identifies sources, scope, uncertainties and updates. Do not fabricate citations, omit known contrary authority or misstate a holding to favor a side. Citation format matters, but an elegant citation to a nonexistent source is not evidence.
Name one distinct issue in each and explain why the rule for A cannot simply replace the rule for B.

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8. Research-limits task: For the changed record in Conflicts concern divided duties, identify the relevant jurisdiction/source type from the printed cards and two checks needed before any actual-case conclusion.
Record: A fictional lawyer is asked to represent both opposing sides in the same contested case and says friendship eliminates every conflict.
Change: The scenario instead involves unrelated matters with no supplied adverse interests.

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Optional guided retry

Optional guided retry for Unit 17 assessment: Legal careers, ethics and access:
A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Read this principle: Competence means more than confidently answering. Professionals must recognize knowledge limits, research relevant law and use appropriate supervision or assistance under their rules. A student demonstrates responsibility by flagging uncertainty rather than pretending to be a lawyer.
Make two boxes:one supplied fact and one legal condition. Draw an arrow explaining their connection. State one thing the record does not establish.

Optional extension

Optional transfer challenge for Unit 17 assessment: Legal careers, ethics and access:
Original: A fictional trainee gives a definite answer from an outdated rule without checking jurisdiction.
Changed fact: The trainee documents the gap and seeks authorized supervision within the fictional office.
Write a two-column before/after analysis. Identify exactly what changed and what legal question remains.
Suggest one fictional additional record that could clarify a genuinely missing fact,or explain why no additional fact is needed under a stipulated model. Do not create a real record,contact anyone or invent authority.

Supplemental sources (not required)

Supplied offline source card
Title: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Legal Occupations
Exact URL: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/home.htm
Jurisdiction/scope: US federal official occupational overview
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Roles include lawyers, judges, paralegals, mediators, court reporters. Wage/projection numbers are not required; last modifiedAugust 27,2026.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Legal Research for Beginners
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-research-for-beginners
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Distinguishes primary law from explanatory secondary sources. Free public guide; account-only databases/books not required.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas State Law Library: Important Case Research Tips
Exact URL: https://guides.sll.texas.gov/case-law-research/important-research-tips
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official public-library guidance
Source type: official-government-explanatory-overview
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Check proper jurisdiction and later treatment. Free research alone is not a full citator guarantee.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Judicial Branch: Rules and Standards
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official judiciary current-rule index
Source type: official-rule-index
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Lists current rules: professional conduct March 7,2025; evidence July 2,2026; civil procedure October 1,2026. Course does not teach actual filing deadlines.
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Supplied offline source card
Title: Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
Exact URL: https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459244/texas-disciplinary-rules-of-professional-conduct-pdf.pdf
Jurisdiction/scope: Texas official primary professional rules PDF
Source type: official-primary-professional-conduct-rules
Verified: 2026-11-07 (America/Chicago CST; dated reading, not an ongoing guarantee)
Reading purpose and limits: Rules 1.01 competence,1.05 confidentiality and 1.06 conflicts read in official PDF. Confidentiality includes protected unprivileged client information; opposing parties in same litigation prohibited by 1.06(a).
Outside browsing is supplemental. Use this printed metadata and the lesson’s original principle to complete the exercise offline.

Submit typed numbered responses; or handwritten photo; or a printed page scanned as image/PDF; or a parent-paper completion log with the actual paper retained. Optional private audio/video may replace written explanation if each numbered task is identified. Each image/PDF/audio/video file must be at most 4 MiB and pass the app’s type/signature checks; use short clips or an equally detailed written script instead of a large file. An HTTPS reference may be stored as text only: it is not opened or evaluated automatically. Do not submit ZIP/code files or private records.