

INTERN ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS AGREEMENT

As an incoming Department of Justice legal intern, it is important for you to understand that you are a federal government employee working under the supervision of attorneys and must abide by the laws governing your conduct. As your supervising attorneys will explain to you, they represent a client (in most circumstances, the Executive branch of the United States or the Department) and, with respect to your work for the Department, you will be required to conform your conduct to the applicable rules of professional conduct as well as other laws and regulations. *See, e.g.*, American Bar Association’s Model Rule 5.3 (requiring lawyers to make reasonable efforts to ensure non-lawyer assistants comply with professional responsibility rules.) It is therefore important for you to acquaint yourself with the laws as well as the rules of professional conduct. Unless otherwise specified, this agreement refers to the American Bar Association’s Model Rules of Professional Conduct for ease of reference, but the rules of various jurisdictions vary. When given any assignment, you should discuss which rules apply to your conduct and what your obligations are with your supervisor.

In your work as a legal intern, you will be obligated to comply with many different rules of professional conduct, including Rule 1.6, Confidentiality of Information. For example, D.C. Rule of Professional Conduct 1.6(h) provides, “the obligation of a lawyer . . . also applies to confidences and secrets learned prior to becoming a lawyer in the course of providing assistance to another lawyer.” Other relevant rules include Rule 1.7, Conflict of Interest: Current Clients; Rule 3.6, Trial Publicity; Rule 3.8, Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor; Rule 4.2, Communication with Person Represented by Counsel; Rule 4.4, Respect for Rights of Third Persons; and Rule 5.5, Unauthorized Practice of Law. You must comply with these and any other applicable laws and rules of professional conduct.

As a Department of Justice legal intern, you have an obligation to safeguard information and documents relating to the representation of the client. While you may be permitted to make certain disclosures during the course of your work, the disclosures are limited and must be authorized by your supervising attorney. These limitations primarily result from obligations under the rules of professional conduct and Executive Branch policies on disclosure of government information, but other laws, rules and privileges may apply. Moreover, some disclosures require approval from your supervising attorney’s component head, United States Attorney, or someone at a higher level within the Department of Justice or the Executive Branch, depending on the nature of the information sought to be disclosed. Keep in mind that your duty of confidentiality does not end when you leave the Department of Justice; it lasts forever.

Your signature below serves as your promise not to use or disclose confidential client information except as authorized by your supervising attorney, and as an acknowledgment that you understand your obligation to determine and comply with the laws and rules of professional conduct that define your obligations in the work you are assigned as a Department of Justice legal intern. If you have questions about your obligations under the applicable laws, rules and Executive Branch policies, please consult your supervisory attorney.

Printed Name

Signature

Date