

**CLIENT INTERVIEWING AND COUNSELING
(SPRING 2015)**

Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm

Room: TBD

Course #6218 / Section #22710

Professors: Amy Hawk and Laranda Walker

Office Hours: Professor Hawk offices in the Blakely Advocacy Institute, 101F BLB. Feel free to drop in anytime or you may schedule an appointment.

Professor Walker will be available by appointment. Please contact her to arrange a time and place for the meeting.

Phone/Email: Professor Hawk: (713) 743-2318; aehawk@central.uh.edu
Professor Walker: (713) 653-7842; larandawalker@gmail.com

Course Description: The course will emphasize a “client-centered” approach to interviewing and counseling techniques. It will touch on the major aspects of the attorney-client relationship, including: (1) the initial client interview; (2) the ethics involved when dealing with clients; (3) case analysis, development and strategy incorporating the client’s input and expectations; (4) preparing the client for negotiations, depositions, settlement discussions or trial; and (5) terminating the attorney-client relationship. All students will engage in mock interviews and counseling sessions throughout the semester. The professors and classmates will provide constructive feedback after each session that can and should be incorporated into future practice sessions.

Attendance: You should attend all class sessions and arrive on time. The UHLC attendance policy requires attendance at 80% of all scheduled (or makeup) classes, or a student risks being dropped from the course. Attendance may be taken at each class.

Please note that you are responsible for managing your absences from class and ensuring that your total number of absences does not exceed 20%.

Grading: Assignments may be emailed to Professor Hawk and Professor Walker by the due date or they may be turned into the Blakely Advocacy Office. Your grade will be based on the following components:

20% Assignment 1
30% Assignment 2
40% Assignment 3
10% Class participation

Textbook: No required textbook. Students will receive handouts and other appropriate materials provided by the professors. A nominal fee to cover copy costs may be charged.

Optional Reading: Binder, David A., Paul Bergman, Susan C. Price and Paul R. Tremblay, *Lawyers as Counselors: A Client-Centered Approach*, Thomson West, 2nd ed., 2004

Herman, G. Nicholas and Jean M. Cary, *A Practical Approach to Client Interviewing, Counseling, and Decision-Making: For Clinical Programs and Practical Skills Courses*, Matthew Bender, 2009

Krieger, Stefan and Richard Neumann, Jr., *Essential Lawyering Skills: Interviewing, Counseling, Negotiation and Persuasive Fact Analysis*, Aspen Publishers, 4th Edition, 2011

Shaffer, Thomas L. and James R. Elkins, *Legal Interviewing and Counseling in a Nutshell*, Thomson West, 2005

CLASS SCHEDULE
(Subject to modification)

Class 1 (January 20):	Introduction
Class 2 (January 27):	Discussion: The Initial Client Interview; Engagement Letters; Non-Representation Letters
Class 3 (February 3):	Continue Discussion: The Initial Client Interview; Engagement Letters; Non-Representation Letters Graded Assignment 1 will be assigned in class.
Class 4 (February 10):	Practice Client Interviews
Class 5 (February 17):	Discussion: Ethics of Dealing with Clients
Class 6 (February 24):	Discussion: The Different Types of Clients You May Encounter
Class 7 (February 27):	Discussion: Case Development and Strategy / Managing Your Client's Expectations Graded Assignment 2 will be assigned in class.
Class 8 (March 3):	Discussion: Dealing with Problem Clients
Class 9 (March 10):	Discussion: "Counseling" Your Client and Delivering Bad News
SPRING BREAK (March 17)	
Class 10 (March 24):	Discussion: Preparing Your Client for Negotiations, Settlement Discussions or Mediation
Class 11 (March 31):	Discussion: Preparing Your Client for Deposition and Trial
Class 12 (April 7):	More Practice Client Interviews Graded Assignment 3 will be assigned in class.
Class 13 (April 14):	Discussion: Terminating the Attorney-Client Relationship
Class 14 (April 21):	Wrap-up Discussion
Class 15 (April 28):	Final Class