

Student Exam Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Midterm Exam**

**STATUTORY INTERPRETATION AND REGULATORY PRACTICE (COURSE #5397)**

**Prof. Hester – Spring 2019**

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**EXAM INSTRUCTIONS**

**YOU MUST RETURN THESE QUESTIONS AT THE END OF THE EXAM.**

This exam has five multiple choice questions, and one separate essay question.

Please write your *exam number* in the blank on the top of this page.

If you are *handwriting* your exam, write your exam number on the cover of *each* of your bluebooks. Also number the bluebooks to indicate how many in total you turn in and the correct order. For example, if you use four bluebooks, they should be labeled “1 of 4”, “2 of 4”, “3 of 4”, and “4 of 4”. Use **ONE SIDE** of a page only and endeavor to write legibly. Also, remember to leave yourself some space in between answers so that you can come back to an answer if you desire.

If you are using a *computer* to take the exam, you must use the Law Center’s exam software.

This exam is open-book and you may use any written materials assigned for this class or prepared by you (either individually or with others). You may not use any materials stored on computer or disk or any electronic materials. You are bound by the Law Center’s Honor Code and must sign the Pledge with your exam number at the end of these instructions. We also will ask you to affirm your attendance at the end of these instructions.

Below is the percentage each section will count towards your final exam grade and the time we estimate you should allow to answer each section. You will have **one hour** to complete the examination.

Section Number	Question Type	Number of Questions	Estimated Total Points Value	Estimated Minutes to Spend on Section
I	Multiple Choice	3	15 (5 points per question)	10 (3 minutes per question)
II	Essay Questions	1	45	50
Total			60	1 hour

For the multiple choice answer questions in Part I, provide or choose the best answer to the questions presented.

For Part II, the issue-spotting essay, your job is to analyze the facts of the question. Do not make up facts or law or fight the facts given. If you need more information to resolve a difficult question, state what information you would need and how it would affect your answer. Read carefully. Think before you write. Good organization, clear statement, and avoidance of irrelevancies are all appreciated. A longer test answer will not necessarily translate to a better score. In fact, sometimes the opposite is the case.

**Please take time to answer all sections of the test.** You are much better off answering all sections of the test with less attention than you might desire instead of failing to answer all the questions asked. I can't help you if there's nothing for me to grade, so don't leave a blank section.

At the end of the exam, you **MUST** turn in the exam questions, your answer sheet, any scrap paper, and your flash drive or bluebooks.

**HONOR CODE.** It is a violation of the Honor Code to use any **UNAUTHORIZED** aid in connection with this exam; to fail to report any such conduct on the part of any other student that you observe; to retain, copy, or otherwise memorialize any portion of the exam; or to discuss its contents with any student in this class who has not yet taken it. ***Do not discuss this exam with anyone that is not a member of this class. Do not discuss this exam with any student in the class without first asking such student whether he or she has taken the exam.***

### **Part I: Multiple Choice Questions**

**10 minutes**

**25% of exam grade  
(15 points)**

Please provide a short answer to each question below or select the correct response for each multiple choice question.

*(Five points per question, 15 points total for all questions collectively)*

1. The local County Attorney has sued your client, a software retailer, for civil violations of the Deceptive and Unfair Sales Practices Act. The statute defines “deceptive sales practices” to include “sales, resales, or leases through misleading electronic advertisements.” The County Attorney alleges that your client sold her software through pop-up ads that lied about the software’s capabilities. Which canon would best apply to benefit your client’s defense?
  - a. The rule of lenity.
  - b. The presumption against retroactivity.
  - c. *Exclusio unius*.
  - d. The last antecedent canon.
  
2. Now that Special Counsel Robert Mueller finally completed and submitted his report to Attorney General William Barr, Congress decides to prevent concerns over the firing of future special counsel investigations of federal executive officers (including the U.S. President). To do so, Congress passes (over a veto) a statute that flatly bars the President from firing a special counsel. Instead, only the Attorney General can fire a special counsel, and only then for “good cause” as defined by the statute. In a lawsuit over the validity of the new law, you can point to the following case as your strongest support to uphold the statute:
  - a. *Myers v. United States*.
  - b. *Free Enterprise Fund v. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board*.
  - c. *Morrison v. Olson*.
  - d. A and B.
  - e. All of the above.

3. You have asked your Senator to add your proposed language to provide student loan debt relief to her bill, now awaiting a committee hearing, which would protect pension rights for transgender military retirees. She declines, and tells you that Senate rules bar her from offering the amendment because it is not germane to her original bill. Your Senator is:
  - a. Telling you the truth.
  - b. Mistaken or lying.

## ESSAY QUESTION

(50 minutes)

(45 points, 75% of grade)

Answer **ALL** of the following question. Please provide concise legal opinions supported by relevant case law, statutes, regulations, and examples discussed in class or in the readings.

### **Question 1 (60 points):**

On April 30, 2019, the State of Texazona passed a new statute to address the growing tide of abuse of home-fabricated drugs. In particular, the Legislature enacted the following statute:

Section 1001: Short Title. This statute will be called the “Stop Abuse of Home Manufactured Drugs Act.”

Section 1002: Purpose. The Legislature finds that:

- (a) Increasing numbers of individuals within the state manufacture illegal drugs in their own homes or premises after purchasing the precursors or ingredients for those illegal drugs from other sources;
- (b) These precursors or ingredients are otherwise sold frequently by legitimate vendors for legal purposes; and
- (c) The growing practice of illegal personal drug manufacturing has directly contributed to rising illegal drug use, increased crime, and damage and destruction to private property and state resources.

Section 1003: Liability. The following actions shall constitute a Class 1 felony:

- (a) the purchase, exchange, collection, possession, acquisition, or any other action to obtain drugs or precursors listed in Annex 1 with the intent to use them to formulate drugs or chemicals that constitute controlled substances under federal or state law.
- (b) Liability for violations of subsection (a) shall attach without regard to the legality of the underlying purchase, exchange, collection, acquisition, or any other action to obtain the Annex 1 drugs or chemicals.

Annex 1 of the Act then lists hundreds of over-the-counter medications that could be used to manufacture illegal methamphetamines, hallucinogens, and tranquilizers which either

require prescriptions for use or are illegal outright under federal and state law. The Act does not provide an explicit effective date.

You are Texazona's Attorney General. A legislator has asked you for an opinion on whether one of her constituents, Melinda Bontemps, might now be liable under the Act. Bontemps has routinely travelled into Mexico to purchase cheap precursors in bulk that now appear on Annex 1, and she brings them back to Texazona to create home remedies and homemade drugs for alternative therapies and traditional folk medicines. She has consolidated a stockpile of these precursors in a commercial storage unit to support her altruistic health outreach program, and that program serves numerous poor and politically disadvantaged communities along the Texazona and Mexico border. Some of her home remedies arguably qualify as controlled substances under federal law, although the federal government has never prosecuted her.

Does the Act apply to Bontemps?