

Law School Standards of Conduct

University of Mississippi School of Law students are expected to maintain high standards of:

Professional conduct, whether on or off-campus, while functioning in a lawyer-like capacity at any time between matriculation as a Law School student and graduation; and

Personal conduct, whether on or off-campus, in all matters that touch or affect the Law School, the University, and any member or guest of the Law School or University communities.

These standards apply without regard to possible civil or criminal liability for the same conduct. But an adjudication of civil or criminal liability may establish or support a finding that a student has engaged in misconduct.

A standard may be violated by an unsuccessful attempt to engage in conduct that would be a violation if completed. Assisting another person's violation or attempting to conceal it also may be a violation.

Enforcement

Departures from these Standards of Conduct are subject to discipline through such disciplinary procedures as may be created by the Dean and the Faculty of the Law School for their enforcement.

Commentary

The Law School's primary mission is to educate students. Professional and personal misconduct of law students may detrimentally affect the Law School's educational mission including preparation of students for legal careers. Thus, the Law School's authority over law students for professional and personal misconduct is exercised from an educational perspective and is separate and apart from the authority of criminal or civil authorities. If in the educational judgment of the Faculty of the Law School or the Dean (including through any appropriate Faculty group appointed to make recommendations regarding such matters) a student has departed from these Standards of Conduct, appropriate action may be taken. Actions will vary under the circumstances but may include placing a student on probation, suspending or expelling a student from school, withholding of a degree from the student, or other appropriate action.

These Standards of Conduct are expressed in general terms, not as defined rules. Law students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, ethical, and moral manner at all times. Thus, conduct of the student that is detrimental to the best interests of the Law School, in the light of the standards of the legal profession, the Law School or the University falls within the scope of these standards.

Conduct may in some circumstances violate both the professional conduct and personal conduct standards. Further, conduct that violates Law School academic standards (which is governed by

the Law School Student Body Honor Code or other rules) may also violate the professional conduct standard or the personal conduct standard and, as such, will be subject to discipline under procedures created for the enforcement of these standards. Conduct that violates anyone standard may give rise to concerns about fitness to practice law and may be reported to bar authorities.

Law students, as students enrolled in the University of Mississippi, are also subject to general university regulations governing student conduct, including, but not limited to, those contained in the University of Mississippi Handbook of Standards ("the *M Book*") or "The University of Mississippi Policy Directory." These Standards of Conduct are in addition to, and independent of, those prescribed by the University.

Professional Misconduct

Professional misconduct while working in a Law School clinic, externship, internship, or other Law School program is measured primarily, but not exclusively, by the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct. Professional misconduct in other activities undertaken before graduation - such as paid or unpaid work for a law firm, government office, judge, or other organization that provides legal services - is measured primarily, but not exclusively, by the rules of professional conduct that apply to lawyers and the rules of judicial conduct that apply to judicial assistants acting where the student conduct occurs. Further, student conduct in any of the above activities that may not be a technical violation of the rules of professional conduct, but which nonetheless is detrimental to the best interests of the Law School in the light of the standards of the legal profession, the Law School or the University, may also be deemed professional misconduct under this standard.

Personal Misconduct

The University of Mississippi Handbook of Standards ("the *M Book*") and the "The University of Mississippi Policy Directory" governs law students and provides examples of personal misconduct. Violations of rules or policies adopted by any University or Law School office or organization (including a recognized student organization) - and any conduct that foreseeably harms another member of the Law School or University community - may be personal misconduct. Possible violations of the personal conduct standard may also include criminal misconduct (whether or not it results in apprehension or conviction), intentional torts and acts that reflect adversely on the student's character or otherwise are detrimental to the best interests of the Law School, and acts that may have resulted in an adverse admissions decision if committed prior to application to or enrollment in the Law School.

Adopted by the Law School Faculty - September 18, 2008.