Lesson 1: Making the Most of A Legal Externship: Setting Goals, Ethics for Law Students, & Professionalism in Legal Setting

The goal of this class is to focus on the particular goals each student has for their externship and to ensure that they are realistic and doable. It will also include an overview of legal ethics.

Readings:

- E. Loeb, Tips for Legal Externs
- Leah Wortham, Setting Goals for the Externship, Chapter 2 Learning From Practice
- J.P. Ogilvy, Journal, Chapter 11 Learning From Practice
- The Following Model Rules of Professional Conduct:
  - Rule 1.6: Confidentiality of Information
  - Rule 1.2: Client-Lawyer Relationship
  - Rule 1.13: The Organization as Client

Pre-Class Assignments:

- Complete Initial Goals Memo and email it before January 25 to docterloeb@gmail.com
  - This Memo/Outline Should List Your Goals for the Externship.
  - Examples:
    - Determine whether Environmental Law is a good fit for you.
    - Assess the type of Environmental Law that most appeals to you, e.g. pollution control vs natural resources, government vs private vs non-profit work, litigation vs lobbying vs policy work.
    - Determine if you are more interested in a criminal vs. civil practice; or in policy vs. transactional vs. litigation work.
    - Figure out what types of legal tasks you like (or don’t like) to do e.g. research, writing, negotiating, oral presenting, analysis of case strengths and weaknesses, case development, working with clients.
    - Generally list practical experiences you want to have during the externship, e.g. observing depositions, trials, negotiations; researching, writing, drafting transactional documents.
    - Determine the type of office that appeals to you (public interest vs. government vs. private).
    - Determine the type of clients you like to work with (e.g. individuals, agencies, organizations).
    - A future job, contacts, recommendations.

- Come to class prepared to share: (1) your name and placement; (2) a summary of your first days at your placement; (3) something good about your first days; (4) something bad about your first days; and (5) a problem or issue that arose during your first days.