

Preface

Ensure student success with the Focus Casebook Series.

THE FOCUS APPROACH

In a law office, when a new associate attorney is being asked to assist a supervising attorney with a legal matter in which the associate has no prior experience, it is common for the supervising attorney to provide the associate with a recently closed case file involving the same legal issues so that the associate can see and learn from the closed file to assist more effectively with the new matter. This experiential approach is at the heart of the *Focus Casebook Series*.

Additional hands-on features, such as Real Life Applications, Applying the Rules, and Professional Responsibility in Practice, provide more opportunities for critical analysis and application of concepts covered in the chapters. Professors can assign problem-solving questions as well as exercises on drafting documents and preparing appropriate filings.

CONTENT SNAPSHOT

The Third Edition of *Professional Responsibility in Focus* offers a comprehensive, updated exposition of the law governing lawyers. It incorporates several new cases, recent ABA Advisory Opinions, and other recent developments — such as the ABA's amended rule on lawyer withdrawal (Model Rule 1.16) — in an expanded, practice-oriented text with new and revised footnotes. The first chapter on the moral responsibility of lawyers helps to situate and contextualize the rule-centric discussion of legal ethics that will follow by inviting students to appreciate the various roles that lawyers play in the legal system, their responsibilities to multiple stakeholders, and the competing values at play in professional regulation. Substantial material was added to the first chapter defining and exploring professional identity. This material is intended to assist students in their professional identity formation and to assist professors who teach Professional Responsibility, as well as their law schools, in fulfilling ABA Standard 303. Following this first chapter, the casebook proceeds with concise, well-written chapters on the attorney-client relationship, covering competence, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest. The book also discusses the lawyer as advocate; special issues in criminal practice; issues concerning the delivery of legal services in general; access to justice; and judicial ethics. The newest edition highlights regulatory changes in some states that allow for experimentation with multidisciplinary practice and alternative business structures. The authors

also focus on changes in technology (particularly artificial intelligence) that may pose partial solutions to the access to justice gap, while creating new problems and issues in the areas of client confidentiality and billing practices. Finally, increased attention is paid to recent scandals in the fields of judicial ethics and government attorney ethics.

ORGANIZATION

This third edition retains the popular, user-friendly format. We believe our problem-based approach to learning engages students and helps them to hone their skills at issue-spotting and problem-solving, while facilitating a greater understanding of the law of professional responsibility. For example, bulleted lists at the beginning of each chapter highlight that chapter's "Key Concepts," providing students with a helpful construct for developing a course outline. The second edition continues to provide a "Case Preview" of each key case in the chapter with several questions to help students to more efficiently and fully examine it. After each case, there is a brief "Post-Case Follow-Up" that informs students about noteworthy developments concerning the case and "Real Life Application" problems and questions. Our discussion problems are often based on real cases and offer students the opportunity to apply the rules in real-life scenarios.

Each chapter closes with three sections. The first, the "Chapter Summary," provides students with a helpful, albeit brief, explanation of the chapter's key concepts and take-aways. The next section, "Applying the Rules," containing problems, sometimes involving multiple issues and rules, provides students with another opportunity to review and apply the chapter's concepts. The third section, "Professional Responsibility in Practice," challenges students to creatively consider and apply some of the chapter's key concepts and principles in the real world of daily practice.

RESOURCES

The book is well-suited for either in-person or online instruction. The problems in the text may be used as breakout sessions for small group interaction, either in the classroom or on a remote platform. The PowerPoint slides and multiple-choice review questions developed for each chapter and contained in the expanded Teacher's Manual will guide instructors in creating their course content and assessment instruments. At the beginning of each chapter in the Teacher's Manual, we highlight some of the new materials to alert professors to the differences between the three editions.

Other resources to enrich your class include: Supplementary material such as *Examples & Explanations for Professional Responsibility, Seventh Edition* by W. Bradley Wendel, which may enhance student learning. Ask your Aspen Publishing sales representative or go to the Aspen Publishing Website to learn more about building the product package that's right for you.