

# CHAPTER 1 Ethics and the Law

## Reviewing Legal Terms

**DIRECTIONS:** Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary term.

administrative law	ethics	morality	unconstitutional
common law	law	precedent	
constitution	legislature	status	

### Answer

- The attempt to develop a means for determining the values of society is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- An action or law that conflicts with the most fundamental law of the nation and is, therefore, no longer valid, is said to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- The rules and procedures established by regulatory agencies are called \_\_\_\_\_.
- The law established by judges and shared throughout England is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- The values which govern a society's attitude toward right and wrong involve \_\_\_\_\_.
- The most fundamental law of a nation or state is its \_\_\_\_\_.
- The rules of conduct established by the government of a society are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Statutory law is created by a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Decisions made by the highest court of a state are called the law of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Laws specifically passed by a governing body created for that purpose are \_\_\_\_\_.

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## You're the Judge

**DIRECTIONS:** For each of the following cases, circle Yes or No to indicate your decision. Then, in your own words, state the ethical or legal principle or reason that applies in the case.

### Answer

1. Bill Shaeffer is upset that his basketball team is losing the championship game to the Stallions of Shelby High. He considers deliberately injuring the Stallions' top center but decides not to, because he would not like the same thing to happen to him. Did Bill make an ethical decision here?
1. Yes    No

**Ethical Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Danny Hiebel makes copies of the geometry test that his class will take the next day and passes them around. He justifies his actions by saying that he is helping the majority of the class by giving them advance copies of the test. Is his reasoning ethically correct?
2. Yes    No

**Ethical Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Lucy Demps was charged with stealing. After she is found not guilty, she is arrested for the same offense and tried again. This time the prosecutor calls the crime embezzlement. Can this happen to Lucy?
3. Yes    No

**Legal Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ann Chun went to the courthouse in her hometown and tried to register to vote. She was told by an assistant clerk that she could not vote until she reached the age of 21. Was the clerk correct?
4. Yes    No

**Legal Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lois Ross maintained that, if she were permitted to do something under the laws of her state, then the U.S. Constitution could not prevent her from doing it. Was she correct?
5. Yes    No

**Legal Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Understanding Legal Concepts

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions and explain each of your answers.

1. Are morality and ethics the same thing? Explain your answer.

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2. Explain why some people use the greatest good principle when making moral decisions.

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3. Why has the golden rule been adopted by many religions?

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4. Do ethics and morality ever conflict? Explain your answer.

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5. What are the functions of the law?

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## Understanding Legal Concepts

6. Which articles of the U.S. Constitution set up the government of the United States?

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7. Does the term common law mean ordinary law? Explain your answer.

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8. What general constitutional principle speaks to the ambiguity of statutes? Explain your answer.

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9. Have the regulatory agencies been outlawed by the federal courts?

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10. Do administrative regulations have the force of law?

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### Law Online

#### Ethical Conduct

Most professions have a set of rules that govern how professionals are supposed to behave. This set of rules for attorneys is called Rules of Professional Conduct in some states, and the Rules of Ethical Conduct in other states.

***DIRECTIONS:*** Using the Internet, find copies of the Rules of Professional Conduct from two states. Complete the table below.

<b>Keywords</b>	
<b>Net results</b>	
<b>List the Web site names and addresses.</b>	
<b>List three rules of ethical behavior.</b>	
<b>Select a rule that interests you. Explain when this rule might apply.</b>	

#### Critical Thinking Questions

1. What are the major differences, if any, between the rules of the two states that you selected?
2. Why do you suppose a set of rules exists for attorneys?
3. If you were a client and discovered that your attorney violated one of the rules, what would you do?
4. Name some other professions that you think should have a set of rules that govern their behavior.
5. Do you think it is a good idea for professions to have a set of rules governing conduct? Why or why not?

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## Self-Assessment Quiz

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. If a law conflicts with provisions of the Constitution, a court can declare that law (A) criminal (B) unusual (C) unconstitutional (D) unfair.
2. The rules of conduct established by the government to maintain stability and promote justice are known as (A) ethics (B) morality (C) the golden rule (D) law.
3. When a decision has been made by the highest court in a state, all other courts in the state must follow that case under the law of (A) precedent (B) stability (C) justice (D) ethics.
4. The most fundamental law of a nation or a state is (A) a statute (B) a constitution (C) a regulation (D) a precedent.
5. A law passed by the legislature is known as (A) a statute (B) a constitution (C) a regulation (D) a precedent.
6. Regulatory agencies have the power to create (A) statutes (B) constitutions (C) regulations (D) precedents.
7. To become law, federal statutes must usually be signed by (A) the president (B) the governor (C) the Senate majority leader (D) a federal judge.
8. At the federal level, statutes are made by (A) the president (B) the Supreme Court (C) the Congress (D) the agencies.
9. Law based on custom and shared throughout a state or a country is known as (A) common law (B) international law (C) unified law (D) shared law.
10. Rules and procedures established by the regulatory agencies are known as (A) administrative law (B) statutory law (C) common law (D) governmental law.