American Bar Association
Associate Dean Conference

June 27, 2019

LaKeisha C. Marsh, Akerman LLP.
Dona H. Cornell, University of Houston
The Law School receives the following email from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):

Hello. I am with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. I am an investigator within the department. My colleague, Jane Smith and I would like to meet with you to discuss [name], a former student.

We were hoping to meet with you mid-July, if possible. During the meeting we would like to review the following documents:

- The dates that [name], former student was enrolled at the Law School and the current and past programs of study
- Copy of enrollment application
- Documents regarding immigration status
- Type of Financial Aid used to pay for courses and any Scholarships and/or Grants received
- Amount of money paid by this student to attend the Law School
- How would you address this situation?
A faculty member is a survivor of a single instance of domestic violence that occurred prior to their employment at the University. The faculty member cannot cope with what happened, has difficulty sleeping, loses focus at work and experiences debilitating flash backs. Can they take FML to deal with their past? Including domestic violence issues? What if it requires her to miss one day of classes each week for counseling, and she says it will last up to a year?
An employee has a claimed disability which was not disclosed upon her hire. She claims her disability is stress and has requested to work from home two to three days a week. How would you handle this situation?
Accommodations - Student

- A first year law student has failing eye sight and requests an academic accommodation of having her courses recorded so that she can review the lectures as a study tool. A faculty member has strong objections to this accommodation. He states that this will not only impair his ability to teach the course, but it will also have a chilling effect on classroom discussions. What would you do?
Accommodations - Student

- A student with a disability requires the use of a service animal. The student brings Brutus the Service Rottweiler every day to attend class. Faculty and staff refuse to interact with the student because they assume the dog is aggressive and may hurt someone.

- Should the student try to get a smaller service animal?
- Can service animals be any breed of dog?
- Do service animals have to be on a leash? Do they have to be quiet and not bark?
- If a municipality has an ordinance that bans certain dog breeds, does the ban apply to service animals?
Catherine and Bobby were in a dating relationship for two (2) years. During the course of the relationship, Bobby consensually shared intimate photos with Catherine. Bobby broke up with Catherine because they were graduating in a few months and he planned to move across the country for his job in Big Law. During the breakup conversation, Bobby asked Catherine to delete the photos he shared with her, and she agreed to do so. Two weeks later, Bobby and Catherine got into an argument regarding visitation of their pet fish. Bobby was out with two of his friends that same night when one of them alerted him that Catherine shared two of the intimate photos of him with several mutual friends on social media. Bobby comes to you, what is your response?
Tom and Sherry are both assigned to work for the defense on a case for Mock Trial. They have never met as Tom transferred as a 2L. Tom asked for Sherry’s phone number for professional reasons, and Sherry provided it to him. Tom began to message Sherry late at night about personal matters such as whether she was dating anyone and what her “type” is. Sherry told Tom she felt uncomfortable by his questions and requested that he only message her about Mock Trial matters. While he indicated that he understood, Tom began following Sherry on her social media accounts and messaging her about the photos she posted. He also continued texting her about other personal matters, and asked her out on dates multiple times. Sherry comes to you for help but does not want to involve the Title IX office or the police. How would you handle the situation?
A law student is accused by a faculty member of violating your school’s honor code by using prohibited materials in a closed book exam. At the honor court hearing, the law student asserts that, in fact, this is not the case. The law student states that this accusation is baseless, and retaliatory. The student alleges that the faculty member asserted this violation because the student did not reciprocate the faculty member’s sexual advances. What do you do?
FERPA

- A student’s parent reaches out to you to let you know that their child is hospitalized and the student will be unable to attend final exams. The parent asks what accommodations can be made for the student. You see in the system that the student enrolled in your law school, but never attended classes and was dropped from courses. How do you approach this situation?
Thank you.