

# Family Law Education Reform Project

## William Mitchell Client Counseling Evaluation

### OVERVIEW

This document is an evaluation for a client counseling exercise.

### EXPLANATION AND COMMENTS

This evaluation may be used to assess students' performances in a client counseling exercise. It may be distributed to students in the form of feedback, used to grade each student's performance, or both.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Contributed by the Faculty of:*  
**William Mitchell College of Law**  
St. Paul, Minnesota

The academic program at the William Mitchell College of Law is founded on legal theory and practical learning, professors who are both scholars and legal practitioners, and a student body that includes career professionals and recent college graduates.

The College of Law places an emphasis on practical lawyering skills by fusing together the curriculum and philosophy of teaching. From writing and trial advocacy program to their clinic program, the curriculum combines skills training with a focus on ethics and legal theory, preparing each student to be a powerful advocate and counselor to their clients.

<b>Scored Client Counseling Evaluation Sheet</b>	<b>WRAP</b> Fall 2008
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**William Mitchell College of Law (Writing & Representation: Advice and Persuasion)**

Representation Professor: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Client portrayal score (2 points): _____	Session score (12 points): _____	Plan score (4 points): _____	<b>Total score</b> (18 points): _____
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PORTRAYAL OF CLIENT (2 POINTS)

**Appeared to be well prepared as client**

unsatisfactory	satisfactory			excellent

**Posed challenge effectively**

unsatisfactory	satisfactory			excellent

CLIENT COUNSELING SESSION (12 POINTS)

**Opening and Updating:**

- Greeted client appropriately
- Confirmed facts from last meeting
- Requested any new information

unsatisfactory	satisfactory			excellent

**Assessing the Client’s Legal Position:**

- Clearly identified the legal issues
- Provided objective and well reasoned summary
- Appropriately recognized and responded to case’s non-legal facets

unsatisfactory	satisfactory			excellent

**Discussing Options:**

- Provided sufficient information to enable client to make decisions effectively
- Used language client could understand
- Drew connections between options and client’s goals and preferences
- Informed client of disadvantages and advantages
- Was open to and properly answered client’s questions

unsatisfactory	satisfactory			excellent

**Making Predictions:**

- Took account of various factors
- Accurately described what success means
- Alerted client to reasons for vague predictions
- Provided reasonably definite information, e.g., ranked options
- Explained factors underlying predictions

unsatisfactory	satisfactory			excellent

**(over)**

**Assisting the Client in Making Decisions:**

- Respected which decisions are client's
- Matched goals and options
- Winnowed list of options to two or three
- Reframed choice, as needed
- Combined options as appropriate

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Effective Handling of the Client's Challenge:**

- Recognized and understood challenge
- Responded to it ethically and effectively

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Closing the Session:**

- Explained what lawyer will do next
- Stated when lawyer will next contact client
- Stated what client will do next, as appropriate
- Provided appropriate reassurance

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Professionalism:**

- Confident
- Respectful
- Articulate
- Organized
- Proper attire
- Proper attendance as lawyer and client

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**WRITTEN OUTLINE (4 POINTS)**

**Concise review and update of facts and concerns**

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Complete and comprehensible statement of legal assessment**

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Sound description and evaluation of most probable options, along with predictions of success**

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Thoughtful plan for assisting client in making decisions**

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent

**Sensible plan for probable next steps by lawyer and by client**

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unsatisfactory      satisfactory      excellent