

Magicsheets

Condensed Outlines – Samples

California Bar Exam / Uniform Bar Exam

MBE

Essays

MakeThisYourLastTime.com

Magicsheets sample content

Click to jump to sample:

- ☞ [Welcome + How to Use](#) (excerpt of orientation document included with full Magicsheets CA version)

- ☞ [Constitutional Law](#)
- ☞ [Evidence](#) (CA version, with FRE version available)
- ☞ [CA Professional Responsibility ABA/CA distinction table](#)
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Thank you for choosing Magicsheets!

- Benefits of condensed outlines
- How to use
- Benchmark goals for you
- Additional supplemental resources (and promo codes)
- [Abbreviations](#)

Key insights highlighted

The amount of law to know for the bar exam is overwhelming.

Don't worry. You won't get everything right even if you "know the rules." No one will.

But if you remember these points, you will get more things right:

1. There's a lot they'll throw at you. You will forget 99% of it unless you DO something with it.
2. Knowing the law isn't enough. You also need to know how to use it! "Knowing" the law conceptually is very different from knowing how to apply it.
3. Big box outlines are a good reference (like Wikipedia is) but WAY TOO LONG AND WORDY for you to efficiently memorize or practice with. You don't read all of Wikipedia, just the parts that are relevant to you.

You're not doing bar prep just to transcribe expensive lectures, or to be a tool collector putting together the information yourself. Your one job is to *learn* so you can pass the bar, not feel drained from "studying" passively. Your time is worth more than flipping through a box of books just to be able to practice.

Benefits of Magicsheets:

- Save precious time and energy. Grasp the tested material in a few pages per subject so you can avoid busy work and optimize for learning, not "studying."
- See the big picture and hone in on smaller details with a nested structure. Use the big books as a reference to go deeper, like Wikipedia.
- See the issues more easily. If I had to pick between rules and issues, I'd rather know the issues cold and have a general understanding of the rules than to memorize the rules but not know how to bring them up... at least on essays.

If all you did was memorize some rule as a fact, your body has no clue what it needs to do.

Some ways to incorporate these condensed outlines into your bar prep:

- Get an overview of a subject. Read through an outline and get a gist of the subject in an hour or so. What most bar takers consider studying (passive activities such as reading outlines, filling in lecture notes, or making flashcards to get their “ducks in a row first”) is 10% of the equation. Spend most of your time doing the below...
- Attempt a practice MBE question.
 - Did you get it right? Check the explanation and the outline to see if your understanding matches up with them.
 - Did you get it wrong? Check the explanation.
 - Did you not know the correct rule? Review the outline to update your understanding of the rule.
 - Did you not know the correct issue? Review the outline to update your understanding of the issue.
- Attempt to write or outline (AKA “cook”) a practice essay question.
 - Which rules did you get? Review the sample answers and the outline to see if your understanding matches up with them.
 - Which issues did you get? Review the sample answers and the outline to see if your understanding matches up with them. If you have blank-page syndrome and trouble starting an essay or even setting up the issues, check out [Appro sheets](#).
- Repeat the same practice questions. Redoing the same question is an underrated strategy to solidify your understanding.
- Review at the end of your studies to consolidate what you learned that day.
- Memorize the issues and rules by understanding the concepts, rote memorizing, and using them repeatedly. Use it or lose it. The real test is being able to *recall* and *recite* the rule statements. That means you must use what you think you’ve memorized. Keep testing yourself.
- Quick last-minute review. Review the outlines as a refresher right before the exam (or a mock exam).

Each question is a *lesson* or a *validation*. Study the delta between your work and the reference.

Benchmark goals for you:

- **At least 1 month away from the exam:** It's OK to answer questions open book at first (with Magicsheets or other reference outlines). But at least *attempt* to answer without looking. Memorization is all about attempts to recall.
- **By the final month:** Wean yourself away from the outlines. Answer questions using issues and rules that you've used before on similar problems and now remember. By seeing the concepts in action used in examples, you'll develop a "bar intuition" and naturally understand and remember the concepts. (Also do some rote memorizing.)

Additional supplemental resources (and promo codes):

MBE

- [AdaptiBar](#), an online platform for MBE questions with over 1,600+ past exam questions that adapt to your skill level, analyze your performance, and create customized practice exams
 - Popular add-on lectures available
 - Use code [MTYLT30](#) at signup to get \$30 off
- [Strategies & Tactics for the MBE](#) (7th edition, Volume 1), a workbook with primers for each MBE subject including Civ Pro, questions selected from a broad range of testable issues, a full-length practice exam, and question sets not available from the NCBE

Essays

- [Past essays and PTs for the California Bar Exam, going back to 2001](#)
- [BarEssays](#), a bank of actual California essay and PT answers with real grader scores
 - Use code [MTYLT25](#) at signup to get \$25 off
 - See my [Essay Answer Bank](#) for more actual essay and PT answers with real grader scores that are exclusive to MTYLT (not found on BarEssays)
- [California essay subject frequency and issue charts](#) (editable)

- [Approsheets](#), companion tool for attacking issues and approaching essays (from blank page to finished essay), including checklists and flowcharts

Use another email address if you've used a discount code on that account before.

MAGICSHEETS | CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 1/5

I. JUSTICIABLE CASE OR CONTROVERSY

- a. Federal courts may hear based on...
 - i. Law-based federal jurisdiction from Constitution, federal laws and treaties, admiralty and maritime laws
 - ii. Party-based federal jurisdiction where U.S. gov't is a party, State v. State, State v. other State citizen, citizens from different states (diversity jurisdiction), foreign diplomats
- b. Art. III limits fed court jurisdiction to "cases" and "controversies." To avoid dismissal in court, go up **RAAAMPS**:
 - i. Standing: Π must show "personal stake." 1) Π's actual or imminent injury, 2) causation, 3) redressability
 1. There is no "injury" to taxpayers (unless litigating tax bill or fed taxpayer challenging spending on 1A religious grounds), legislators, Constitution lovers (abstract desire to see gov't comply)
 2. Organizational standing requires that 1) individual members have standing + 2) interest asserted is related to organization's purpose + 3) individual member participation in the suit is not required (there is no individualized injury, remedy would be the same to all members, or injunction would solve everyone's problems) (no *damages* because each member would have to show damages)
 - ii. Ripeness (whether suing too soon): Π must show harm or imminent threat of harm. *Proposed law or action not yet taken* are not real cases or controversies
 - iii. Mootness (whether suing too late): A case is moot if the dispute has been resolved (i.e., there is no redressability), unless "capable of repetition, yet evading review" (e.g., pregnancy can recur)
 - iv. Political Q: Fed court will not take issues involving a matter for another branch of gov't that the judicial process is inherently incapable of resolving and enforcing
 1. Textually demonstrable constitutional commitment to other branches (Senate's sole power to impeach), lack of judicial standards (partisan but not racial gerrymandering, foreign affairs)
 - v. Abstention: Fed court will abstain (defer to state courts) if claim is based on an undecided issue of state law
 - vi. Adequate and independent state grounds: *SCOTUS* will not hear a case from a *state high court* if its decision can be supported on state law grounds alone (even if federal Q involved), unless it was unclear whether based on state law alone, or state follows federal constitution (treat as federal law)
 - vii. (No) advisory opinions: Advisory opinions lack an actual dispute b/w pts or any legally binding effect. Matter must be a real and substantive *present* (or specific future) controversy capable of specific relief
- c. 11th Amendment (sovereign immunity): Private pts cannot sue state gov't in fed court for damages (injunctions OK)
 - i. Allowed if v. state officials (incl. for damages), state expressly consents, or based on 13A-15A powers

II. CONGRESSIONAL POWERS (for *federal law* to be constitutional, *enumerated congressional powers* must justify it)

- a. Congress does NOT have regulatory (police) power to promote health, safety, and welfare of residents except in DC
- b. Commerce clause: Broad power to regulate interstate commerce (ISC), i.e., regulate channels, instrumentalities, activities that have a substantial effect on ISC (even *intrastate, economic* activity under cumulative effect doctrine)
 - i. Shared with state and local gov't through dormant commerce clause (see § IV-e for tests)
 - ii. Cumulative effects doctrine: To determine "substantial effect," consider aggregate effect of similar actions
 - iii. Cannot regulate *intrastate non-economic* activity (e.g., guns near school) unless economic effect on ISC
 1. Comprehensive scheme EXCEPTION: If Congress enacts a program that aims at interstate or economic activity, it can sweep up isolated instances of *intrastate non-economic* activity if those are necessary to make the program effective and have a substantial national economic effect
- c. Taxing power: Impose and collect taxes to pay debts and spend *for the general welfare w/ purpose* to raise revenue
- d. Spending power: Spend for any public purpose to provide for general welfare (e.g., education, roads, space program)
 - i. Congress cannot *regulate* for the general welfare except in non-state federal territories
- e. Delegation power: Congress can delegate powers it possesses and create an agency with legislative power to make rules. Intelligible guidelines for carrying out concrete objectives are required (loose standard—think **RB**)
- f. Property power: Regulate (pass any law) and dispose of federal property, including Indian property and wild animals
- g. Speech and debate clause: A member of Congress (+ aides) cannot be punished for anything said on legislative floor
- h. Impeachment power: Congress can remove the president, federal judges, and federal officials through impeachment
- i. Appropriations power: Congress can pass a bill to direct how the president must spend money
 - i. Earmarking funds: Executive branch *must* spend the funds, or obtain Congress approval to refuse spending

III. EXECUTIVE POWERS (partly shared with Congress)

- a. **Congressional authorization 3-prong test**: Where the president acts with Congress's express/implied authority, his power is at its apex, and his action is likely valid. Where Congress is silent, the president's action is upheld as long as the act does not take over another branch's powers or prevent another branch from performing its tasks. Where the president acts against Congress's express will, he has little authority, and his action is likely invalid
- b. Chief executive domestic powers (**EAR PVPs**)
 - i. Enforcement of laws, not making them. May delegate to other executive officers. Attorney general is chief law-enforcement official. May direct federal executive agencies (executive orders) but *not private parties* outside the executive branch unless authorized by Congress. May set up presidential advisory commissions
 - ii. Appointment power: President can appoint officers and high-level officials with consent of Senate
 - iii. Removal power: President can remove high-level, purely executive officials without cause. President may be able to remove other executive officials for good cause based on statute (e.g., corruption, incompetence)
 - iv. Pardon power (plenary): President may grant pardons before charge or after conviction to *federal criminals*

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- v. Veto power: Proposed legislation becomes law unless wholly vetoed within 10 days of passing legislation
 1. Line-item veto is unconstitutional. President may only approve/reject a bill in toto
 2. Legislative veto (Congress changes law by majority vote after president signs) is unconstitutional
- vi. Privileges: Absolute privilege to refuse to disclose national security secrets. Qualified privilege to confidential comm'n between president and advisors (balance confidentiality vs. purpose to reveal or not)
- c. Commander-in-chief (military) powers (**BREW**): Respond to attacks (only Congress has power to initiate war), emergency power (broad discretion to send troops abroad w/o declaration of war, whether or not Congress is in session), wartime power (seize private property in wartime unless Congress denies it), battlefield tactical decisions
- d. International affairs: Treaty power (make agreements between countries with 2/3 Senate consent), executive agreements with foreign nations (Congress ratification not needed)
- e. Hierarchy of laws: U.S. Constitution > treaty / federal statute (last in time prevails) > executive agreement (foreign) / executive order > state constitution > state law

IV. FEDERALISM

- a. Supremacy clause: Constitution, federal laws, and treaties are supreme law
 - i. Express preemption: Federal statute says federal law is exclusive in an area
 - ii. Implied preemption: If state law conflicts with fed law, Congress shows clear intent to occupy the field, or state law impedes federal objectives
 - iii. If no conflict or no impedance of federal objectives, state law may be broader (e.g., higher minimum wage)
- b. Federal function immunity: Federal instrumentalities (gov't and agencies) are immune from...
 - i. State taxation where the "legal incidence" of the tax is on the U.S. without consent of Congress
 1. Nondiscriminatory, indirect taxes OK if no unreasonable burden, e.g., state tax on fed employees
 - ii. State regulation that would interfere with fed functions (fed law would control, per supremacy clause)
- c. Sovereign immunity: Fed gov't (U.S.) cannot be sued w/o consent. U.S. or another state may sue a state w/o consent
- d. 10th Amendment police power: States have broad power to regulate areas traditionally w/in power of states (involving health, safety, welfare, morals), limited by contrary fed power (laws, tax immunity, enumerated powers, foreign affairs, exclusive jx)
 - i. Anti-commandeering doctrine: Under case law, Congress (and likely executive orders) cannot make state legislatures pass a law or require state executive officials (e.g., police) to enforce federal law. However...
 1. Mere prohibitions are not commandeering
 2. Spending power can indirectly regulate state if condition for money is clear + not unduly coercive
- e. Dormant commerce clause (DCC): State may not regulate ISC in a way that is discriminatory or unduly burdensome
 - i. If Congress hasn't enacted legislation, states may regulate local transactions affecting ISC, only if the regulation does not discriminate against out-of-state actors to benefit local economic interests ("economic protectionism") and does not unduly burden interstate commerce (burden < state's interest in the action)
 1. If a state law **does discriminate on its face** against OOS actors, invalid unless it serves important noneconomic state interest + no reasonable nondiscriminatory alternatives (usually invalid)
 - a. EXCEPTION: State may prefer own citizens as a market participant (buy, sell, hire, etc.)
 2. If a state law is **facially neutral** and merely incidentally burdens ISC, use balancing test: Law is invalid only if burden on ISC > promotion of legitimate local interests (i.e., undue burden on ISC)

V.

STATE ACTION REQUIREMENT: The Constitution generally protects against governmental action at any level (federal, state, local), not actions of private individuals (except 13A), UNLESS...

- a. Significant state involvement: Private action is closely encouraged and supported by the state (state hand in private glove); e.g., court seeks to enforce a racially restrictive covenant, or statute requires segregated public toilets
- b. Public function theory: Private actor is delegated a function traditionally reserved to states (company town, not mall)
- c. Mutually beneficial relation derived from unconstitutional behavior; e.g., state gets increased revenues and rents from privately owned restaurant that discriminates

VI.

STANDARDS OF SCRUTINY: Levels of strictness when a court reviews the legitimacy of governmental acts

- a. Strict scrutiny (SS): **Gov't must prove its classification is necessary to achieve a compelling gov't interest**
 - i. Law must discriminate on its face or have actual motive (if facially neutral)
 - ii. Classification is necessary if it is the **least-restrictive means** (no alternative to lessen the burden) or is **narrowly tailored** to serve the compelling gov't interest (difficult test to meet—gov't almost always loses)
- b. Intermediate scrutiny (IS): **Gov't must prove its classification is substantially related to an important gov't interest**. Law must discriminate on its face or have actual motive (if facially neutral)
- c. Rational basis (RB): **Plaintiff must prove classification is not rationally related to any legitimate gov't interest**

VII.

DUE PROCESS CLAUSE (DPC): 5A applies to fed gov't; 14A applies to state and local gov't

- a. Procedural DPC protects persons against *intentional* deprivation of life, liberty or property w/o due process of law
 - i. Persons: All people including aliens and corporations, not just citizens
 - ii. Liberty: Freedom of action (e.g., bodily restraint), constitutional freedom Life: Threat to life
 - iii. Property: More than belongings. Equal protection rights, constitutional freedom, e.g., public education, public employment (no property interest if "at will"), benefit under state law (welfare), licenses
 - iv. If life, liberty, or property entitlement taken, what adequate process is due? Matthews balancing factors: (1) importance of interest to the person (more important → more process needed), (2) gov't interest/burden in

efficiency (more burdensome to get protection → less process needed), (3) value of procedural safeguards (more likely that gov't will make a mistake without procedural protection → more process needed)

v. Due process rights may be waived if voluntary and made knowingly

b. **Substantive DPC** (sDPC) is a source of fundamental individual rights not spelled elsewhere in the Constitution.

Gov't may not infringe on fundamental rights ("CAMPERD STOVF"). Standard of review is **SS unless noted**:

i. **Contraception** (privacy): State cannot prohibit distribution of contraceptives, whether single or married

ii. **Abortion** (privacy): No longer a fundamental right (2022 *Dobbs* decision). **SS not applicable**. Previously, state regulation was unconstitutional if it imposed an **undue burden** on choice to abort, up to fetus viability

1. Example of undue burden: requiring spousal notice about abortion

2. Not undue burden: parental consent w/ judicial bypass, 24-hour waiting period, ban unsafe method

3. Any abortion restriction, even post-viability, must have exception to protect mother's life or health

iii. **Marriage** (privacy): Right to enter into (and likely, to dissolve) marriage is deemed fundamental

iv. **Parentage/Procreation** (privacy): Reproductive rights, and child rearing, care, custody, control

v. **Education (Private)**: Parents have a right to privately educate children outside of the public school system

vi. **Relatives** (family relations)

1. Gov't cannot prohibit members of an extended family from living in a single household

2. Gov't can ban unrelated persons from living together in a single-family residence

vii. **Death**: Right to refuse medical procedures, even if life-extending. No right to suicide or assisted suicide

viii. **Sexual orientation (strict RBR)**: Gov't cannot criminalize same-sex sexual activity (no legitimate interest)

ix. **Travel**: Right to travel interstate and to set up residency in a new state, subject to reasonable restrictions

x. **Obscene material**: Right to possess in one's home. No right to buy, sell, transport. No right to child porn

xi. **Vote**: 15A (no race discrimination in voting), 19A (no sex discrimination in voting), 24A (no poll taxes)

1. Total ban (on *picking/voting* for a candidate) via, e.g., redistricting primarily based on race? **SS**

2. Regulation of process that makes voting harder? **Undue burden balancing** (gov't interest/burden)

3. Reasonable restriction (on *being* a candidate: age, residency, filing fee, voting districts)? **RB**

a. Traditional one-person one-vote principle does not apply to special, limited-purpose voting districts, such as a water-storage district where voting is limited to landowners

xii. **Free association** (1st Amendment): Right to belong to political groups

c. **Takings clause** (provided by 5A, applicable to states via 14A)

i. **Gov't cannot take private property for public use without just compensation**

1. Public use means "public purpose." Burden on gov't to show the action is **rationally related** to any **legitimate** purpose (such as health, welfare, safety, aesthetic reasons)

2. "Just compensation": **loss of FMV to owner**, not gain to taker (not comped if worthless property)

ii. If the action is a "taking," just compensation is required; mere "regulation" does not require compensation

1. Examples of reg: zoning ordinance, ordering destruction of diseased trees, landmark ordinance

iii. **Actual/physical taking**: If gov't takes one's property by actual or physical appropriation, it is a taking

1. Includes permanent, physical invasion no matter how minor (e.g., running cable lines)

2. **Temporary taking**: Not a *per se* taking. Balance the circumstances (e.g., planners' good faith, reasonable expectations of owners, length of delay, actual economic impact) to determine whether fairness and justice require just compensation

iv. **Regulatory taking**: A regulation that decreases the value of property. Per *Lucas*, it is not a taking unless it **deprives all economically beneficial use of land** (e.g., disallowing land development).

1. **Partial taking** occurs when only a portion of the property owner's land is rendered economically useless through an intrusion or regulation. **Penn Central balancing test**: 1) regulation's economic impact on the claimant, 2) extent to which the regulation interferes with distinct investment-backed expectations (purpose of property?), 3) character of the government action (for welfare?)

VIII. **EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE (EPC)**: applicable to states via 14A and to fed via 5A DPC for gross discrimination

a. Applies where a statute or gov't action treats similarly situated people in a dissimilar manner or singles out one *class of persons* (i.e., classifies people). Compare sDPC protection of fundamental rights of *everyone*

b. **Race discrimination** – suspect classification subject to **SS**

i. **De jure** (by law) segregation almost always unconst'l, e.g., school segregation, banning interracial marriage

ii. **De facto** OK (happens through private choice and social factors, e.g., different races live in different areas)

iii. **Affirmative action**: Overt classifications may pass **SS** review in affirmative action

1. Compelling interests: Remedy state's own (not general societal) past discrimination w/ narrow tailoring of benefits to those actually affected, or diversity in higher education (post-secondary)

c. **Alienage discrimination** (treating citizens & non-citizens differently) – suspect classification subject to **SS**

i. **Public function EXCEPTION**: State may require citizenship for state jobs that directly affect politics – **RB**

ii. **Illegal (undocumented) aliens** not a protected classification – **RB** **Illegal alien children** – **IS**

1. *Fed law* may adopt immigration policy (e.g., 5yr residency req for fed Medicare benefits) – **RB**

d. **Gender discrimination** – **IS** (gov't must show "exceedingly persuasive justification," closer to **SS**)

i. **Affirmative action**: Remedial (even for past, societal reasons) or benign discrimination satisfies **IS**

e. **Illegitimacy** (treating illegitimate children differently) – **IS**

Unlikely to be tested in 2023. But can consider both standards (SS, not SS) in an essay.

MAGICSHEETS | CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 4/5

- IX. PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES CLAUSES (applies to **out-of-state discrimination** against *citizens only*)
- a. Article IV comity clause (basic rights): State gov't cannot discriminate against *non-residents* of the state if *economic* discrimination affects "fundamental rights" or "important economic activities," unless the discrimination is closely related (no less discriminatory alternative could be achieved) to a substantial gov't interest (IS)
 - i. Non-resident discrimination cannot affect rights including civil liberties and right to work and pursue livelihood, e.g., higher license fees or taxes for out-of-staters, abortions or employment for locals only
 - b. 14th Amendment (narrow scope, rarely used): State cannot deny citizen rights of national citizenship, e.g., to travel state lines and establish residency in a new state
 - c. N/A to aliens and corporations ("persons"). But can protect from discrimination via DCC, 14A DPC, or 14A EPC

Strict Scrutiny (SS)	Intermediate Scrutiny (IS)	Rational Basis Review (RB/RBR)
Race, alienage (state), national origin, voting, domestic travel, most sDPC rights, DCC (discriminate on face)	Gender, illegitimacy, undocumented alien children, P&I under Article IV	Age, alienage (fed), disability, sexual orientation, social, economic, all else (non-suspect classifications (EPC) or non-fundamental rights (DPC))

- X. RETROACTIVE LEGISLATION
- a. Contracts clause: Prohibits *state legislation* from *substantially* impairing the obligation of existing public/private K
 - i. EXCEPTION: Regulation of **private K** is reasonably and narrowly tailored to promote important and legitimate public interest. Regulation of **public K** receives stricter scrutiny
 - b. Ex post facto law: State/fed may not retroactively alter criminal offense or punishment that puts Δ in worse position
 - c. Bill of attainder: State/fed may not pass a legislative act that inflicts punitive punishment without a trial on named individuals or an easily ascertainable group for past conduct

FIRST AMENDMENT NEXT PAGE

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XI. FIRST AMENDMENT (1A also applicable to states through 14A)

- a. Free speech clause (speech = words, symbols, expressive conduct intended and reas. likely perceived as a message)
 - i. Restricts gov't regulation of *private* speech. Does not constrain gov't from voicing its opinions or funding only certain private speech, subject to other constitutional limitations
 - ii. Facial attacks—analyze these first when expression is being regulated
 1. Prior restraint: Gov't action restricting speech before it occurs (rather than punishing after) is disfavored. Such restriction must be narrowly drawn and show special societal harm will result
 2. Overbreadth: Ordinance invalid as overbroad if it prohibits activities that may be constitutionally forbidden and also those that may be protected under 1A (allowable under another standard)
 3. Vagueness: Regulation is void as vague if ordinance is so unclear that reasonably intelligent persons would have to guess at its meaning and would differ as to its application
 4. Unfettered discretion: A regulation cannot give officials unfettered discretion over determining speech issues (e.g., power to raise permit fee, or require review); there must be defined standards
 - iii. Content-based regulation: **Strict scrutiny** triggered if gov't regulates content- or viewpoint-based speech. That is, there are few restrictions on *content* of speech. But there are unprotected speech EXCEPTIONS:
 1. Obscenity: Regulation valid only if the work 1) appeals to prurient (sexual) interests based on local community standards, 2) depiction or description is patently offensive per local standards, 3) as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, scientific (LAPS) value to a reasonable person
 2. Defamation: See *Defamation* in Torts Magicsheets. Additional constitutional issues apply for public matters: falsity and fault. Public info may be protected if newsworthy and not offensive
 3. Unlawful advocacy: May prohibit if the speaker (subjectively) intends to produce “imminent, unlawful action” + speech is (objectively) likely in fact to produce “imminent, unlawful action”
 4. Hostile audience: Speech eliciting imminent, violent reaction from the crowd. But police must make reasonable efforts to protect the speaker
 5. Fighting words: Likely to incite ordinary citizen to acts of immediate, violent retaliation to speaker
 6. True threats: Intended to convey serious threat of bodily harm (e.g., cross burning to intimidate)
 - iv. Content-neutral regulation / time, place, manner (TPM) regulation: Regulation of public forums (historically open to speech-related activities, e.g., sidewalk, park) and designated public forums (not historically open to speech but designated for it, e.g., classroom for after-school civic activities) must be **content- and viewpoint-neutral + narrowly tailored (no total bans) to serve an important interest + leave open alternative channels of communication** (most legitimate interests meet importance standard)
 1. Limited public forums (not historically linked to speech but open for a purpose, e.g., school gym for town debate) and non-public forums (not open to public, e.g., military base, school in session) may be TPM regulated only if **viewpoint-neutral + reasonably related to a legitimate interest**
 - v. Quasi-protected speech: Commercial speech is protected if it 1) is not false or deceptive and 2) does not relate to unlawful activity. But gov't can still regulate if it 1) serves a substantial gov't interest + 2) directly advances that interest + 3) narrowly tailored to achieve that interest (reasonable fit b/w goals and means)
- b. Freedom of religion
 - i. Establishment clause: Prohibits gov't from preferring one religion over another or establishing a religion
 1. If regulation on its face discriminates or prefers a religion, or prefers religion generally over non-religion → SS
 - a. If speech is involved, can also raise viewpoint discrimination under the free speech clause
 2. If law or program is facially neutral (no sect preference), the coercion test is a factor (2022 *Kennedy* decision): Gov't cannot coerce support or participation in religion against one's will (e.g., broadcasting prayer during school graduation or football game, expectation to participate). There are no formal criteria. Consider extent of supervision and *social pressures* to participate
 - a. Previously, valid under Lemon test if it has 1) secular (nonreligious) purpose, 2) primary effect that does not advance or inhibit religion, 3) no excessive gov't entanglement with religion. *Kennedy* “abandoned” *Lemon* but did not explicitly overrule. Consider both tests
 - b. Gov't financial assistance to defined class of persons is valid if the class is defined w/o reference to religion or religious criteria (even if recipients use to attend religious school)
 - ii. Free exercise clause: Gov't may not prohibit the free exercise of any religion
 1. Genuine belief (threshold issue)? Sincere religious beliefs are absolutely protected. The belief must parallel orthodox religious beliefs; it cannot be a purely political or philosophical view
 2. Generally applicable? Gov't may regulate (under **RB**) an activity if the regulation is neutral w/r/t religion and is of general applicability, even if it incidentally burdens religious conduct
 - a. EXCEPTION: If person quits job for sincere religious reason, gov't cannot refuse unemployment benefits
 3. If law is not generally applicable and was motivated by intent to interfere with religion → SS
 - a. EXCEPTIONS: Sabbath observance unemployment benefits, start Amish schooling at 16

Regulation likely invalid for being overbroad or vague

MAGICSHEETS | EVIDENCE 1/4

- I. RELEVANCE (small hurdle but check for *each* item of evidence)
- Logical relevance: Evidence must be relevant for it to be admissible. It is relevant if it tends to prove/disprove a material fact** ([CA] “a material fact *in dispute*”)
 - Legal relevance: FRE 403 (CEC 352)** applies to balance probative value (PV) w/ risk of prejudice. A judge has broad discretion to exclude relevant evidence if its PV is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice (UP) (e.g., gore, heroin), confusion of the issues, waste of time (e.g., speculative answer), or misleading the jury
 - Exclusion for public policy:** Relevant evidence may be excluded for public policy reasons below. It may still be admissible for other purposes, e.g., prove ownership/control, impeachment, admission, rebutting non-feasibility, bias
 - Subsequent remedial measure:** Evidence of repair or precautions inadmissible to show culpability. Can use to show ownership or control or destruction of evidence, or to rebut claim that precautions were impossible
 - Settlement offers or negotiation (FRE 408):** Inadmissible to prove liability for, or invalidity of, a claim at *actual dispute* as to validity or amount of liability. Must exclude all contextual statements attached to offer
 - Offers to pay medical expenses (FRE 409)** are inadmissible. Accompanying admissions may be admissible
 - Withdrawn guilty pleas:** Inadmissible as too prejudicial, minimal PV (but can waive inadmissibility)
 - Liability insurance** (“I have insurance”) or lack of: Can’t use to show culpability. Can use to show ownership or control, to impeach, or as part of admission
 - [CA] **Expression of sympathy** relating to accident V inadmissible in civil cases, other admissions severable
 - [CA] **Mediation statements and writings** inadmissible in discovery or proceedings (can waive)
- II. PRELIMINARY FACTS
- Judge is not limited by evidence rules when determining preliminary facts (e.g., competency) except w/r/t privileges
 - Authentication:** Real or written evidence requires proof to support a jury finding that it is what the proponent claims
 - Authentication generally requires witness’s first-hand knowledge or familiarity. Preponderance not needed
 - Self-authenticating docs:** *certified* public and business records, trade inscriptions ([CA] N/A), official pubs
 - Best evidence rule** ([CA] **secondary evidence rule**): To prove the *content* of a writing or other tangible collection of data relevant to proving some **material fact**, the original must be introduced if available. Can still be hearsay
 - Only applies if content is in dispute (K, will, defamation) or where the testimony depends on the writing
 - Duplicates ([CA] handwriting included) are admissible to the same extent, unless 1) genuineness is at issue (one party contests authenticity), or 2) would be unfair in the circumstances to admit the duplicate in lieu
 - Original NOT required if: lost or destroyed (unless by opponent bad faith), opponent fails to produce, collateral matter, subpoena ineffective, independent source (personal knowledge), inscribed chattel
 - Competency of witness:** W must 1) have personal knowledge of the matter and 2) affirm/swear to testify truthfully
 - Judge and jurors are incompetent to testify at trial. No need to object if judge testifies
 - [CA] W must understand duty to tell the truth. Judge and jurors incompetent but may testify if no objection
 - Conditional relevancy:** If relevance depends on a particular fact finding by the jury, the court will admit the evidence after the judge first makes a threshold (and final) determination that a reasonably jury could find the necessary fact
 - Judicial notice** allows a party to “prove” an adjudicative (non-collateral) fact by the court’s recognition
 - Judge *must* take judicial notice if a party requests and supplies necessary information
 - Judicially noticed facts are conclusive in civil cases, but jury may disregard in crim cases ([CA] civil/crim)
 - Rule of completeness:** If a party introduces part of a writing or recorded statement (even if inadmissible hearsay), the other party may require introduction of any other part in fairness (as long as not barred by, e.g., double hearsay)
- III. CHARACTER EVIDENCE (susceptible to probative value v. unfair prejudice balance)
- Character describes one’s disposition with respect to general traits** (good driver, trustworthy, etc.). **Character evidence is generally inadmissible to prove conduct in conformity therewith.** (Just because Δ did [specific bad things showing similar character] before does not mean he did [charged act] in this case.)
 - Ways to prove: **reputation**, **opinion** (can test basis by asking whether W knows of a particular conduct), **specific acts**
 - EXCEPTION [**crim** only]: Δ opens the door or Δ alleges self-defense in homicide – **rep/op on direct exam + sp on x-exam** ([CA] **rep/op/sp on direct and x-exam**)
 - Δ opens the door to say Δ is of good *pertinent* character (W testimony puts Δ character in issue)
 - Δ opens the door to say V is of bad *pertinent* character (except sexual in rape cases) to show Δ’s innocence
 - [CA] Π can rebut only after Δ’s evidence of V’s violent character (narrower than FRE)
 - Only then may Π rebut Δ/V’s character w/ **rep/op** (call own W), or **x-exam** W on specific instances only
 - [CA] Domestic or elder cases: Π can initiate showing Δ’s acts of domestic violence or elder abuse
 - EXCEPTION: Other purposes – Δ’s MIMIC (**FRE 404(b)**) or prior act of sexual assault (**413–415**) – **sp**
 - EXCEPTION: Defense or cause of action where character is an element at issue – **rep/op/sp**
 - Defamation (B said A is a thief). Defenses: reputation testimony, truth (A is indeed a thief)
 - Negligent hiring (bring up all traffic offenses of employee)
 - Negligent entrustment (loan car to someone, should have known not a good idea to lend it)
 - Child custody (fitness as parent)
 - Self-defense: Survivor’s reasonable belief of imminent deadly harm
 - Entrapment: Δ had no predisposition commit the crime – but raises predisposition element for Π to rebut
 - EXCEPTION: Habit evidence is freely admissible as character evidence – **op/sp**
 - A habit is a semi-automatic response to a specific and frequent situation. For an organization, a habit is a routine practice of the org. Look for 2+ occurrences, “always,” “every day,” “frequently,” “instinctively”

MIMIC evid
Motive
Intent
Mistake
(absence of)
Identity
(signature m.o.)
Common plan

MAGICSHEETS | EVIDENCE 2/4

IV. HEARSAY is an **out-of-court statement** [out of *this* court] made by the declarant **offered to prove the truth of the matter asserted**. It is **inadmissible upon proper objection unless an exemption/exception applies**.

- i. Out-of-court (OOC) statement may be oral or written, includes assertive conduct, excludes depositions
- ii. **The statement is not hearsay where the OOC statement is introduced for other purposes, to show:**
 - legally operative facts (of independent legal significance, e.g., K terms, defamatory words), effect on listener (notice, knowledge, motive), knowledge of speaker, state of mind (evidence of insanity, belief)
- a. Non-hearsay exemptions ([CA] fall under “exceptions”) (“**prior**” statements need declarant’s availability)
 - i. Prior inconsistent statement: To admit a prior statement inconsistent with declarant’s in-court testimony, declarant must be *available* [FRE] and the prior statement must have been *given under oath*
 - ii. Prior consistent statement offered to rebut a charge that W has motive to lie/exaggerate. Declarant must *testify at trial* + be subject to x-exam + statement made *before* the alleged motive to lie or exaggerate arose
 - iii. Prior statement identifying a person after perceiving him – must be *available to testify* at trial
 - iv. Admissions by party: Statements by *opponent* (*cannot bring own*) acknowledging a *fact relevant* to the case. Statement need not be against declarant’s interest when made, may be opinion or based on hearsay (no personal knowledge needed). Cf. statements against interest (§ IV-b-i-1)
 1. Adoptive admissions (conduct, or silence where the party understood the accusatory statement + capable of denying + reasonable person would have, if untrue, denied under the same circumstances, e.g., not in police presence—suspect in custody has no duty to speak)
 2. Vicarious admissions
 - a. Co-parties: Party admissions are NOT admissible against co-II/Δ
 - b. Authorized: Statement of a person expressly/impliedly authorized by party to speak on its behalf is admissible against the party
 - c. Agents: Statement by an agent (e.g., employee) within scope of agency, *made during existence of relationship*, is admissible against principal
 - d. Co-conspirators: Statement of any conspirator is admissible against all members of the conspiracy if it was *in furtherance of the conspiracy* (look for confrontation clause issue)
- b. Hearsay exceptions (hearsay but admissible)
 - i. **If declarant unavailable** (via PRISM: privilege, refusal, incapacity, someplace else, memory lacking)
 1. Statements against interest (pecuniary, penal, proprietary, [CA] social) *when made*. The declarant must have had personal knowledge of the facts and awareness that it was against his interest
 - a. Collateral matter (evidence solely affecting the credibility of a witness) is admissible
 - b. [FRE] Against criminal liability, need corroborating circumstances of trustworthiness
 2. Former testimony: Testimony that is now offered against a former party in former action, or a predecessor in interest (civil cases), who had an opportunity to x-exam W at prior/preliminary hearing (including deposition but *not* grand jury) + similar motive to develop W’s testimony
 3. Dying declarations [FRE: homicide or civil actions only. CA: all civil/criminal]
 - a. Declarant must have believed death was imminent (actual death not needed) + statement concerns cause or circumstances of what he believed to be his imminent death
 - b. [CA] Declarant must actually be dead + statement concerns what *did* kill him
 4. Pedigree/family: Statements concerning personal or family relationship closely associated with W
 5. Forfeiture by wrongdoing: Statements offered against a party who deliberately caused a declarant’s unavailability (e.g., Δ might arrange for a key witness to be murdered)
 - a. [CA] Applicable only where declarant was *killed or kidnapped* by person statement is offered against. Requires C&C evidence (more than standard FRE preponderance)
 6. [CA] Past physical or mental condition (including statement of intention) at issue if it is at issue
 7. [CA] Threat of physical harm: Statement that describes or explains infliction or threat of physical injury on declarant is admissible if 1) made at or near time of infliction or threat, 2) circumstances indicate trustworthiness, 3) in writing, recorded, made to police or medical personnel
 - ii. **If declarant is available or unavailable** (availability is immaterial)
 1. Excited utterances ([CA] spontaneous statement): While under excitement of startling event, a statement made w/o reflection which relates to ([CA] narrates, describes, or explains) the event
 2. Present sense impression: Statement of what was perceived at time of event or immediately after
 - a. [CA] Contemporaneous statement explaining conduct made while engaged in the conduct
 3. Then-existing state of mind (forward-looking intent), emotion, sensation, physical condition
 - a. When state of mind is directly at issue or to infer subsequent acts carrying out intent
 - b. Statements of memory or belief inadmissible to prove its truth (except declarant’s will)
 4. Declarations of physical condition: Portion of statement imputing fault not admissible if unrelated
 - a. Present bodily condition made spontaneously admissible even if not made to a physician
 - b. Past bodily condition admissible only if made to medical personnel for diagnosis, treatment, or testimony
 - i. [CA] Only by child-abuse or child-neglect victim under 12 made to medical personnel for diagnosis or treatment

Look for...

Emotional state →

Timing →

MAGICSHEETS | EVIDENCE 3/4

5. **Business records:** Records of acts, conditions, events, transactions, opinions, or diagnoses made *at or near the time of event with personal knowledge of matters during regular course of business.* Entrant must have had a business duty to make the entry (e.g., not crime witnesses)
 - a. **[CA]** Conclusions, opinions, and diagnoses are not admissible as a business record
 - b. Requires authentication of record via custodian testimony or written certification
 - c. Excludes reports prepared for litigation, or by outsider (unless via a different exception)
 - d. **Absence of entry in records:** Negative purposes allowed to prove nonoccurrence of matter if it was regular practice to record all such matters, if witness is familiar + diligent search
 - e. **Discretion to exclude** if source of information or circumstances indicate lack of trustworthiness (those prepared in anticipation of litigation)
6. **Present recollection revived:** Testifying witness can refresh memory by looking at any evidence (no hearsay problem because evidence itself is offered into evidence)
7. **Past recollection recorded:** A record that is on a matter 1) testifying witness once had personal knowledge of but now cannot recall well enough (refreshing attempted and fails), 2) was made or adopted by W when the matter was fresh in memory, and 3) accurately reflects W’s knowledge
8. **Public records:** Records made within scope of duty of a public employee, entered at or near time of event. Records setting forth the following are admissible: activities of the office or agency, description of matters observed pursuant to duty (inadmissible if untrustworthy or **[FRE]** police observations in criminal case), factual findings from investigation by authority (only in civil cases or **[FRE]** if used against gov’t in criminal cases)
 - a. A police record not qualifying as a **business record** may be admitted under this exception
 - b. **Absence of public records:** Custodian may testify that diligent search failed to find a record to show that the matter was not recorded or did not occur
 - c. **Prior judgments:** Felony conviction admissible against Δ to prove an essential fact
- iii. **Ancient documents:** Statements in 20YO+ document are admissible and self-authenticating (**[CA]** 30YO+)
- iv. **Family records:** Statements of fact concerning personal or family history found in family keepsakes
- v. **Learned treatises** that are established as reliable authority (**[CA]** only facts of general notoriety and interest)
- vi. **Catchall:** Trustworthy + necessary in interests of justice (probative, material) + notice to adversary

V. TESTIMONIAL EVIDENCE & IMPEACHMENT (used for attacking credibility or truthfulness)

- a. **Lay witness testimony:** Can testify as to opinions or inferences only if testimony is 1) rationally based on perception (personal knowledge, 5 senses), 2) helpful to a clear understanding to determination of a material fact or of his own testimony, and 3) **[FRE]** not based on scientific, technical or other specialized knowledge (unless grossly apparent)
- b. **Expert witness testimony** must meet requirements to be admissible: 1) Specialized knowledge helpful to jury, 2) qualified as expert, 3) reasonable certainty of opinion, 4) testimony based on proper facts or data, 5) testimony based on *reliable* principles and methods. **Reliability factors:** 1) generally accepted in relevant scientific community, 2) peer reviewed (capable of retesting), 3) published, 4) low error rate. **[CA]** Reliable if generally accepted
 - i. Expert witness may testify as to an ultimate issue. Not appropriate: conclusory legal opinions, criminal Δ’s mental state if element of crime or defense
- c. **Impeachment refers to the casting of an adverse reflection of the truthfulness of a witness to discredit him**

Impeachment method	Intrinsic (“Isn’t it true YOU...”)	Extrinsic (“HE did...”) – may also be hearsay
Prior inconsistent statements (PIS)	X-exam (including collateral/non-material matters, e.g., different sock colors, reason for why W was out)	Non-collateral only: Relate circumstances to recall (may be <i>after</i> PIS admitted to evid) + give W opp to explain/deny + give other side opp to interrogate
Prior bad acts re: truthfulness (act of lying or deceit)—cross-examiner needs good-faith basis first	X-exam (ct has discretion to allow)	Never admissible (must take W’s answer)
Poor reputation/opinion for truthfulness—call a witness	–	Anything (usually testimony)
Prior convictions - felony (if II shows PV > UP) - <i>crimen falsi</i> (dishonesty crimes) - otherwise w/in judge’s discretion	- Evidence of felony conviction up to 10 years old, unless PV >> UP - Evidence of felony conviction is also a hearsay exception to prove any fact essential to lead to judgment (FRE 803(22)(C)) - [CA] Only felony involving moral turpitude is admissible, subject to PV/UP balancing - [CA] Only criminal misdemeanor involving moral turpitude is admissible under Prop 8 , subject to PV/UP balancing	
Bias, motive to lie, defective senses	Anything (involving, e.g., friend; parent; revenge; lack of perception, memory, knowledge)	

- i. **Rehabilitation:** Show of W’s truthfulness. Impeached W may be rehabilitated on redirect or by EE: W may explain original response; another W may testify to **rep** or **op** for truthfulness; pt may show **prior consistent statement** (only to defeat charge of fabrication) made before time of alleged motive to lie or exaggerate
- ii. Impeachment need not positively controvert prior testimony (W2 can say he doesn’t recall what W1 saw)
- iii. A witness may be impeached by any party, including his own
- iv. **[CA]** **“moral turpitude”:** Defined by a broad “readiness to do evil” standard, e.g., lying, violence, sex crimes, extreme recklessness; NOT drug possession, negligence, unintentional acts

MAGICSHEETS | EVIDENCE 4/4

- d. Examination of witnesses: The judge (the court) may reasonably control the examination of witnesses and presentation of evidence to effectively ascertain the truth, avoid waste of time, and prevent harassment of witnesses
 - i. Leading questions (suggesting the answer, e.g., “Isn’t that correct?”) are not allowed on direct examination
 - 1. EXCEPT to 1) hostile (unwilling) witnesses, 2) adverse witnesses, 3) child witnesses, 4) solicit preliminary background information (“You’re licensed, right?”), or 5) refresh W’s recollection
 - 2. Allowed on x-exam, BUT x-exams are limited to 1) matters brought out on direct exam and inferences naturally drawn therefrom and 2) matters affecting the credibility of the witness
 - 3. Showing W a document to refresh recollection is not “leading”
 - 4. Adverse W generally cannot be asked a leading question *by his own attorney* on x-exam
 - ii. Other bases for objection to form of question: nonresponsive (answer to different Q or no answer, may be stricken by motion to strike), Q/A requiring speculation, compound question (more than 1 at a time), loaded question (assumes facts—answer requires unintended admission: “Have you stopped beating your wife?”), argumentative (prompts W to draw legal conclusion), calling for a narrative (asks for story, not facts)
 - iii. The judge may call W upon his own initiative and interrogate any W who testify, as long as no partisanship
- VI. PRIVILEGES (Not provided by FRE but are governed by common law. In CA, statutory and exempt from Prop 8)
- a. Attorney-client privilege: Communication between client and atty (or representative employed to assist in rendering legal services, e.g., physician examines client at atty’s request) intended by client to be confidential and made with *purpose* to seek legal advice is privileged indefinitely, unless waived by *client* ([CA] ends when estate distributed). Attorney may invoke privilege on client’s behalf. Voluntary disclosure waives privilege w/r/t/ disclosed material
 - i. EXCEPTIONS: Furthers what client should have known was a crime or fraud, between former joint clients, dispute between attorney and client, [CA] reasonably necessary to prevent death or serious bodily harm
 - b. Spousal testimonial privilege: Privilege not to testify against spouse in *criminal* cases ([CA] applies to civil/crim)
 - i. Held by witness. Must be married *at time of testimony*. Covers observations and communications
 - c. Marital communications privilege: Privilege not to disclose private communication between spouses (civil/crim)
 - i. Held by both. Covers confidential spousal comm’n from *during* marriage. Waived by known eavesdroppers
 - d. EXCEPTIONS to both spousal privileges: suits against each other, crime against a spouse or either spouse’s child, joint furtherance of future crime or fraud (spouses are co-Δ)
 - e. Physician- (state created—presume N/A in MBE) / psychotherapist-patient privilege: Confidential medical communication between professional and patient made with *purpose* of diagnosis or treatment. Patient holds privilege (doc may claim privilege on patient’s behalf if patient cannot)
 - i. EXCEPTIONS: patient puts his condition at issue (e.g., personal injury suit), important to prevent injury to a person, sought to aid planning of crime/tort
- VII. 6TH AMENDMENT CONFRONTATION CLAUSE (overrides hearsay exceptions, check co-conspirator admissions)
- a. **Any prior out-of-court testimonial statements by an unavailable declarant are inadmissible against CRIMINAL Δ, unless Δ has had prior opportunity to x-exam declarant at the time of statement**, absent forfeiture caused by Δ’s wrongful act intended to keep the witness from testifying
 - i. Testimonial statement: Solicited by the state for the primary purpose of statement during police interrogation was to prove *past* events potentially relevant to later criminal prosecution
 - ii. Non-testimonial statement: Primary purpose of statement during police interrogation was to aid police during ongoing emergency
 - 1. However, the emergency can abate during the call, turning the statement testimonial
- VIII. [CA] PROPOSITION 8
- a. **Prop 8 is part of the CA Constitution. Prop 8 makes all relevant evidence in a CRIMINAL case ADMISSIBLE, even though objectionable under the CEC, UNLESS it falls under certain EXCEPTIONS (CHOP SUR):**
 - i. Constitution: Exclusionary rules based on U.S. Constitution, e.g., confrontation clause, Miranda violation
 - ii. Hearsay: Hearsay evidence remains inadmissible, and exceptions to the hearsay rule are still admissible
 - iii. Open the door: Prosecution is still prohibited from offering evidence of Δ’s or V’s character before Δ opens
 - iv. Privilege: Attorney-client, spousal witness and marital communications, physician-patient, and all other privileges in existence since 1982 apply
 - v. Secondary evidence rule: CA’s version of best evidence rule still applies
 - vi. Unfair prejudice: Prop 8 preserves **CEC 352**, giving judge discretion to exclude evidence if PV << danger
 - vii. Rape-shield statutes prevent Δ from offering evidence of V’s sexual conduct to prove behavior, unless V’s prior sexual conduct was with Δ. If Π asks V about prior sexual conduct, Δ may x-examine and rebut
 - b. In CA criminal cases, relevant evidence below may be admissible, subject to CEC 352 balancing of PV and UP
 - i. Impeachment of character for untruthfulness, admissible by **rep** or **op** testimony (same as under FRE)
 - ii. Impeachment by prior convictions (felonies, criminal misdemeanors involving moral turpitude) and impeachment by prior bad acts involving moral turpitude, both types admissible by x-exam or EE
 - c. Approach: CA court or law → state whether Prop 8 applies (crim) or not (civil). If yes, for each item of evidence:
 - i. If an exception applies (likely) → analyze admissibility of evidence under ordinary CA rules
 - ii. If an exception does not apply → evidence is admissible under Prop 8 → analyze judge’s CEC 352 discretion to exclude if PV << danger of unfair prejudice

MAGICSHEETS | PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (ABA & CA) 4/5

DIVERGENT ISSUES	ABA	CA
Duty of competence	L must have legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary to represent a client	L may not intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly fail to perform legal services with competence Competency includes the duty to supervise the work of subordinate L and non-L employees
Duty of diligence	L must act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing C	L may not intentionally, repeatedly, recklessly or with gross negligence fail to act with reasonable diligence in representing C
Duty of loyalty – conflict of interest (COI)	L may not accept or continue representation of C, without informed written consent (IWC) from C, if (1) the representation is directly adverse to another C or (2) there is a significant risk that representation of C will be materially limited by L’s responsibilities to another C, former C, or personal interest of L	Or L has legal, business, financial, professional, or personal relationship w/ party in same matter
Exception	UNLESS L obtains informed written consent (IWC) from Cs + L reasonably believes he can competently and diligently represent each C	UNLESS L obtains informed written consent (IWC) from Cs
Duty of loyalty – COI Sexual relations with C	L may not engage in sexual relation with C (even consensual), unless it preceded AC relationship	Same, unless C is L’s spouse or registered domestic partner
Duty of loyalty – COI Loans to client	L cannot provide financial assistance to C in connection with litigation, except for... - Advancing litigation expenses (repayment may be contingent on outcome) - Paying litigation expenses for an indigent C	L may lend money to C for any purpose if C gives written promise to repay
Duty of loyalty – COI Pecuniary interest	Pecuniary interest in C’s property is only allowed as lien to secure fees or contingency fee	Retaining liens is not allowed
Fees Standards	Fees cannot be “unreasonable” Factors include: novelty and difficulty of legal issues, time limitation, nature of relationship w/ client, experience, contingency	Fees cannot be “illegal or unconscionable” CA also factors in: amount in proportion to value of services, relative sophistication of attorney and client, client’s informed consent to fee
Fees Agreements	Fee agreement is <i>preferably</i> in writing, except for regularly represented clients w/ same basis or rate Contingency fee agreement <i>must</i> be in writing	For <i>non-contingency cases</i> , written agreement required only if reasonably foreseeable > \$1k
Fees Third-party compensation	May take comp from non-C, only if 1) <i>3P does not interfere</i> with independence of professional judgment or with lawyer-client relationship, 2) C info is <i>kept confidential</i> , and 3) C gives <i>informed consent</i>	May take comp from non-C, only if 1) <i>3P does not interfere</i> with independence of professional judgment or with lawyer-client relationship, 2) C info is <i>kept confidential</i> , and 3) C gives <i>informed, written consent (IWC)</i>
Fees Referral fees	Referral fees are prohibited	L may pay fee to referring L, only with <i>written client consent</i> and <i>total fee not increased</i>
Fees “True retainers”	–	L may charge <i>non-refundable</i> fee to ensure L’s availability to C if C agrees in writing
Fees Arbitration	–	C may elect arbitration of dispute of L’s fees, unless agreed in writing to mandatory arbitration
Duty to safekeep client property	Depositing L’s funds in C trust account permitted to extent reasonably necessary to pay bank charges –	EXCEPTION: advance flat fee w/ written notice
Duty of confidentiality	L must not reveal information relating to the representation of a client. EXCEPTIONS: To prevent death or serious bodily harm To prevent crime/fraud likely to cause substantial <i>financial</i> harm. To get ethics advice Compelled by court/law/ethics rules Informed consent from C, suit v. client, collect fees	May reveal to extent necessary after dissuading C and informing C that info can be revealed – Compelled by court/law rules
Organization as client (potential Business Associations crossover) Reporting up client org	When L knows that action of (rogue) officer or employee is likely to result in substantial injury to the org, L must proceed as is reasonably necessary in the best interest of the org Report up the chain of command up to the highest level (board of directors). If this fails, and there is substantial risk of harm to the org, L may reveal info outside to the extent necessary	Urge rogue employee to reconsider while explaining likely consequences. L must not violate duty of confidentiality. If this fails, withdraw from rep (never authorized to reveal info to outside)

MAGICSHEETS | PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (ABA & CA) 5/5

Termination of representation (mandatory)	Termination is mandatory if representation will result in violation of the rules or other law, L's physical or mental condition materially impairs ability to represent client, or L is discharged by C	Termination is mandatory if L knows or should know that representation will result in violation of rules, L's physical or mental condition renders it unreasonably difficult to carry out representation effectively, L is discharged by C, or frivolous litigation
Withdrawal of representation (permissive)	C insists on action L considers repugnant, crime or fraud, unreasonably difficult. C agrees to termination. Other good cause	← Any of these rules, or C insists on action not warranted under existing law, or continued representation is likely to result in violation of these rules
Malpractice suit v. L	C needs written notice and reasonable opportunity to seek independent counsel before settling	
	–	Criminal Δ who sues a lawyer for malpractice must make a colorable claim of actual innocence Will/trust: Intended beneficiary known to L may also hold L liable for malpractice
Duty of candor	L has a duty not to knowingly make a false statement of fact or law, fail to disclose adverse <i>law</i> , or offer false evidence (including from witness or client). L may refuse to offer evidence he reasonably believes is false or disclose adverse <i>facts</i> [CA used to have different standard until 2018]	
Duty of candor Testimony of criminal Δ	If L reasonably believes testimony will be false, must still allow Δ to testify If L knows Δ's testimony will be false...	
	Try to convince not to, ask court to withdraw, or disclose	Try to convince not to, ask court to withdraw, or allow Δ to testify in narrative
Lawyer as witness	L may not be a witness and advocate, unless there is: uncontested matter, explanation of nature and value of legal services, or substantial hardship on C	L may not be a witness and advocate, unless there is: uncontested matter, explanation of nature and value of legal services, substantial hardship on C, or client IWC
"Threat rule"	–	L may not threaten <i>criminal</i> , administrative, or disciplinary charges to gain advantage in civil lit
Trial publicity	L may state to media re charges, defense, investigation exists, schedule, ask help, warn public danger	L may not make media statement if there is a substantial likelihood it will result in material prejudice
Advertisement (generally allowed)	False or misleading communication containing <i>material</i> misrepresentation of fact or law (or omission of a necessary fact) are prohibited	False or misleading statements are prohibited (materiality not required) Presumed violations: testimonials (unless disclaimer), guarantees, predictions, implied affiliations
Solicitation (generally prohibited)	L may not seek work via contact in person or live phone call (or real-time electronics under ABA only), unless family or prior professional (or close personal under ABA) relationship	
	–	Runner/capper: Cannot give anything of value to a person for recommending the lawyer or services, or reward a person for a recommendation made that resulted in employment, except for reasonable media cost
Sale of practice	<i>Entire</i> practice must be sold, must cease practicing law in the geographic area	Sale of <i>substantially</i> all of practice allowed
Grounds for discipline after admission	L may not violate the rules <u>or</u> <i>knowingly</i> assist or induce others, or commit a criminal act or engage in conduct that reflects dishonesty	L may not commit felony, crime, or act involving "moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption"
Duty to report misconduct	If L knows (suspicion or speculation insufficient) of a violation of rules that presents a substantial question as to the honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as an attorney, L has ongoing obligation to report it	Self-reporting required if sanctions > \$1k, 3 suits were filed v. L within 1 year, or facing felony charges (Reporting another L's violations is permissive)
Unauthorized practice of law (UPL)	L cannot engage or aid in the unauthorized practice of law	
	–	L may hire and properly supervise a disbarred, suspended, resigned, or involuntarily inactive member to do non-attorney work

MAGICSHEETS | SECURED TRANSACTIONS 1/4

- I. SCOPE (What are secured transactions about?)
 - a. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Article 9 governs security interests and provides rules for their priority, and applies to “any transaction (regardless of its form) which is intended to create a security interest in personal property or fixtures by contract” (consensual security interests in goods and not real property)
 - b. Parties
 - i. **Creditor (secured party):** party that extends value to a debtor in exchange for security interest in debtor’s collateral property
 - ii. **Debtor:** party with property right in the collateral, who made a security agreement with creditor
 - iii. **Obligor:** party under obligation to furnish money or services due (often also the debtor)
 - c. Definitions
 - i. **Collateral:** property subject to a security interest that a creditor can look to satisfy the debt
 1. **Consumer goods:** goods used *primarily* for personal, family, household purposes
 2. **Equipment:** goods (for business) other than consumer goods, inventory, farm products
 3. **Inventory:** goods for sale or lease to others in the ordinary course of business, or raw materials, work in process, or materials used or consumed in business
 4. **Accessions:** goods physically united with other goods while retaining separate identity (e.g., GPS unit installed in car)
 5. **Farm products:** goods used for or produced by farming operation, except uncut timber (includes growing/grown crops and born/unborn livestock)
 6. **Classification of tangible collateral may differ depending on the use or owner**
 - a. Example: A computer could be a consumer good or equipment depending on use
 - b. Equipment vs. inventory :: cash register vs. line of clothes
 - c. **Fixtures:** goods that are attached to real property such that an interest in them arises under real property law (e.g., chandelier, sprinkler system, furnace)
 7. **Intangibles/semi-intangibles** include intellectual property, financial instruments (e.g., stocks, bonds, cash proceeds), accounts (right to payment), promissory note / chattel paper (record of monetary obligation and security interest in or lease of specific goods)
 - ii. **Purchase money security interest (PMSI):** interest that arises where a secured party advances money or credit to enable the debtor to purchase the collateral itself (i.e., seller finances the sale)
 - iii. **Lease vs. security interest:** If a transaction is characterized as a lease of a good but is intended to have effect as security, it will be governed by Article 9 as a security interest. Intent for security depends on the “economic realities” of the transaction. A transaction creates a security interest rather than a lease if the rental obligation is not terminable by the lessee, and the lessee has an option to purchase the goods for no or nominal consideration at the end of the lease
- II. ATTACHMENT AND PERFECTION OF SECURITY INTEREST
 - a. **A valid security interest in collateral against debtors requires attachment to collateral, and against others requires perfection of the interest**
 - i. Perfection cannot occur until all of the requirements for attachment have also been satisfied
 - b. **Attachment:** Is the security interest enforceable against a debtor with respect to the collateral?
 - i. To attach a security interest to the collateral requires:
 1. **Security agreement:** Debtor must authenticate a security agreement granting the creditor security interest in collateral + reasonably identify collateral (including any after-acquired property—see below)
 - a. EXCEPTION – creditor in possession: If the creditor has taken possession of the collateral, authentication of the security agreement that evidences the secured transaction is not needed
 - b. After-acquired property (e.g., “all equipment now owned and hereinafter acquired”) can create a security interest in property that the debtor does not currently own but may or will acquire in the future
 - i. The creditor’s security interest automatically attaches when the debtor acquires rights in collateral (not currently owned) in the future
 1. EXCEPTION: Will not attach to *consumer goods* UNLESS debtor acquired the rights within 10 days after creditor extended value
 - ii. Clause not required when collateral is *inventory* or *accounts receivable*
 2. **Value:** Creditor must have given value (consideration) at time of agreement or in the past
 - a. Creditor may make a definite commitment to give future value (e.g., line of credit)
 3. **Rights to collateral:** Debtor must have rights in the collateral
 - a. Possession alone is insufficient to show debtor’s rights in the collateral
 - b. Show rights via ownership, possession via contract, or identification in a contract

- ii. A security interest attaches to the collateral as soon as the three requirements are satisfied, unless the parties expressly agree to postpone the time for attachment
- c. **Perfection:** Is the creditor's security interest in the debtor's collateral good against others?
 - i. Any *one* of the following steps may perfect a security interest in collateral:
 - 1. **Automatic perfection of security interest**
 - a. **PMSI in consumer goods:** A security interest is *automatically* perfected upon attachment for a PMSI in *consumer goods*
 - i. **PMSI in equipment:** To perfect, creditor must file a financing statement within **20 days** after debtor is in possession of collateral
 - ii. **PMSI in inventory:** To perfect, creditor must file by the time debtor is in possession of collateral + give notice to others with security interest
 - b. **Small-scale assignment of account receivable** that does not *alone* transfer a significant part of outstanding accounts or payments to creditor
 - c. **Non-consumer deposit accounts** (e.g., corporate accounts) do not require filing
 - i. Must perfect by control (e.g., bank gets debtor's bank acct as collateral)
 - 2. **Filing of notice:** Creditor files with a public office (e.g., Secretary of State of debtor's state) a financing statement that identifies the security interest and the collateral covered
 - a. Financing statement should include debtor's address and correct name (e.g., no trade name). Filed name should not be so misleading so as to be undiscoverable
 - b. Filing location: state of individual's principal residence; state where registered organization (e.g., corporation, LLC) organized; county of timber, mineral, fixture
 - c. If a statute requires perfection by other means (e.g., notation on certificate of title), security interest is perfected by doing so. State issuing the most recent certificate of title governs perfection of goods covered by a certificate of title
 - i. EXCEPTION: Interests created by dealers in vehicles for sale/lease may be perfected by filing (or upon possession or control)
 - 3. **Possession:** Creditor takes possession over the collateral, shown by physical control over the property sufficient to put 3Ps on notice of the secured party's interest in the collateral
 - a. Perfection is effective upon and for the duration of possession
 - b. Not applicable to intangible goods—but see **control** over collateral below
 - 4. **Control:** Creditor has control over the collateral
 - a. Security interest in a **non-consumer deposit account** is perfected by control (e.g., bank where an account maintained in automatically has control over account)
 - b. What is control? For bank *deposit accounts*, have or change name on account to that of creditor. For *financial instruments*, creditor receives certificate. For *electronic chattel papers*, copy of electronic chattel paper designates creditor as assignee, is maintained by creditor, and can only be changed by creditor
 - ii. **Proceeds:** Security interest in proceeds (from sale or other disposition of collateral) remains automatically and temporarily perfected for **20 days** from when debtor receives the proceeds
 - 1. A security interest will continue after a sale, lease, license, exchange, or other disposition
 - 2. Security interest in proceeds may be effective beyond the 20 days if...
 - a. **Cash proceeds:** Proceeds are identifiable cash proceeds
 - b. **Financing statement in same office:** For non-cash proceeds, the financing statement covering the proceeds *would be* filed in the same office as the financing statement for the original perfected security interest in collateral
 - c. **Perfected within 20 days:** Security interest in proceeds is actually perfected, e.g., by identifying in financial statement for collateral "all of debtor's property"
 - iii. **Delivery of goods:** Creditor that delivers goods or negotiable documents to debtor for disposition has a perfection period of **20 days**. To retain perfection beyond that, must re-perfect (see § II-c-i)
 - iv. When re-perfection is needed
 - 1. **Lapse:** A perfected security interest lasts 5 years. Perfected secured party must file a continuation statement within six months before the expiration of the 5-year period. Otherwise, the perfection lapses, and the perfection procedure must be repeated
 - 2. **Debtor or collateral moves out of state:** Perfection continues in the other jurisdiction for 4 months (debtor) or 1 year (collateral), respectively. Perfection is continuous from the original perfection date if the security interest is reperfected (e.g., financing statement filed) in the new jurisdiction within the 4 months or 1 year, respectively

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- III. PRIORITIES (resolving which conflicting security interest takes priority over another)
- a. Each superseding creditor is entitled to payment in full before a subordinate claimant
 - b. **Buyer in the ordinary course of business takes free of a security interest held by a secured creditor in the inventory (i.e., has priority over the creditor).** A buyer in the ordinary course of business is a person that buys goods in good faith, without knowledge that the sale violates rights of another party, in the ordinary course of business from a merchant (in the business of selling goods of that kind)
 - i. Think innocent consumer, who can rest assured of having good title to the inventory
 - ii. Buyer takes free even if buyer had knowledge of interest, but only if purchased in good faith
 - iii. Shelter rule: If buyer takes free of security interest, subsequent transfers are also free of interest
 - c. **Perfect > unperfected.** Perfection gives secured party priority over competing unperfected creditors
 - i. **Between perfected creditors, first to file or perfect (complete security interest) has priority**
 1. Relation back: Creditors may file even before the security interest attaches to collateral. When determining priority between perfected creditors, see whose filing date precedes
 - a. Note that *consumer goods* PMSI perfects automatically (no filing—see § 11-c-i)
 - d. **Prior perfected > lien.** Prior perfected creditors have priority over lien creditors. Judgment/judicial lien creditors have priority over conflicting interests only if they became lien creditor before security perfected
 - i. For example, state sheriff levies on collateral on behalf of creditor; creditor becomes lien creditor
 - e. Buyer *not* in the ordinary course of business has priority over unperfected (maybe attached) creditors
 - f. Between unperfected creditors, first to attach has priority over later unperfected creditors (and over general unsecured creditors, who did not take collateral from debtor in exchange for loan)
 - g. Specific cases that may supersede general priorities above
 - i. Accession vs. whole: If an accession becomes part of a whole that is subject to a perfected security interest, security interest in the whole has priority over security interest in the accession
 - ii. After-acquired equipment vs. PMSI in same equipment: PMSI in equipment has priority over a conflicting security interest (regardless of earlier priority date) if PMSI is perfected when debtor receives possession of collateral (or perfected within 20 days of debtor receiving possession)
 - iii. Mortgage interest vs. security interest in fixture: Creditor with interest in fixture must perfect in 20 days, or holder of mortgage interest will prevail

IV. RIGHTS OF SECURED PARTY

- a. A secured party (creditor) has statutory remedies under Article 9 if debtor defaults on the agreement
- b. Secured party's right to take possession of collateral
 - i. Via self-help: After default by debtor, a secured party may take possession of the collateral if done so without "breach of the peace"
 1. "Breach of the peace" is characterized by likelihood to result in violence, and includes any disturbance, threat of disturbance, constructive force (e.g., impersonating police officer), or breaking and entering. Repossession over any protest (e.g., telling creditor "do not enter") is a breach of the peace (creditor should try another day or use another method)
 - a. If creditor repossesses by breaching the peace, debtor may bring civil/criminal suit for conversion and recover actual and punitive damages
 - b. If collateral is on debtor's property, creditor needs voluntary consent to enter
 - c. Trickery OK: Creditor may trick debtor to repossess (*without* constructive force)
 - ii. Via judicial process: Get a judicial writ ordering sheriff to obtain and deliver collateral to creditor
 - iii. Via strict foreclosure: Secured party may keep collateral in full satisfaction of outstanding debt
 1. Notification: Secured party must send a written proposal to retain the collateral in full satisfaction of outstanding debt

	Consumer goods	Non-consumer goods
Recipients of notification	Debtor + any secondary obligors	Debtor + any secondary obligors + other secured parties who told foreclosing creditor of their interest + creditors perfected 10 days before the notification date

2. If any notified party objects w/in 20 days of notice, strict foreclosure is not allowed. Instead, collateral must be disposed of by sale
3. For consumer goods, if debtor has paid 60% of cash price or loan, creditor must instead sell the collateral within 90 days or be liable for conversion (can't keep collateral)
- c. Secured party's right to dispose of collateral
 - i. Via sale: After default by debtor, a secured party may sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the collateral in a "**commercially reasonable**" manner (and apply the sale proceeds to the debt)
 1. Every aspect of sale must be commercially reasonable: usual manner, current price, etc.
 2. *Sale* by a secured party may be *public* or *private*

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3. *Purchase* by secured party may be *public*—but generally not *private*, unless collateral is of a kind that is customarily sold on a recognized market or the subject of widely distributed standard price quotations (reliable external market to check the sale price against)
4. **Notification:** Prior to sale, secured party must send reasonable notice
 - a. Contents should include time and place of *public* sale, or time after which *private* sale will be made (e.g., “after MM/DD/YYYY, the following collateral will be sold”)

	Consumer goods	Non-consumer goods
Recipients of notification	Debtor + any secondary obligors	Debtor + any secondary obligors + other secured parties who told foreclosing creditor of their interest + creditors perfected 10 days before the notification date
Timing: Notification must be sent within...	A reasonable time under standard of commercial reasonableness. No brightline requirement. Reasonableness is a QOF.	10 or more days before earliest time of disposition stated in the notification is presumed to be commercially reasonable

- b. A secured party that fails to provide notice may be liable for damages regardless of the debtor having actual knowledge of the disposition
 5. Proceeds of sale go to expenses, then to debt, then to subordinate interests (if left over)
 6. After sale of collateral after default, its security interest and all subordinate interests in the collateral sold are discharged, UNLESS bad faith by purchaser
- ii. **Via deficiency judgment:** Secured party may proceed against the debtor for a deficiency judgment if sale proceeds from the collateral are insufficient to satisfy the debtor’s obligations
 1. Amount of deficiency is calculated based on amount of sale and outstanding debt
 2. **Debtor’s right to redeem:** Debtor may redeem the collateral by paying the obligated amount owed plus any interest and secured party’s reasonable expenses after default (including attorney’s fees). Redemption may only occur before a sale or strict foreclosure
 - a. **Waiver:** Right to redeem collateral may be waived only *after* default. An agreement that includes a waiver of right to redeem is invalid
 3. Secured party in breach of rules may be unable to seek deficiency from debtor (see § V-c)

V.

RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTY (debtor may also recover damages)

- a. Alienability of debtor’s rights: A debtor’s rights may be transferred to a third party. Any agreement that prohibits a transfer does not prevent the transfer
- b. A secured party may be liable to debtor for actual damages caused by failure to follow an Article 9 rule
 - i. However, the debtor has a **duty to mitigate** damages (e.g., could place bid at sale of collateral)
- c. A secured party that breaches an Article 9 rule may be prohibited from collecting deficiency from debtor
 - i. UNLESS the secured party can show that the breach did not cause the deficiency
 1. For example, if debtor had enough funds to pay the debt before a sale, or the sale was commercially reasonable