

Evaluation of January Ethics Training
9:00 am – 3:30 pm, January 31, 2020
Essay Assignment

Due: Monday, February 24, 2020 at 10:00 am (via assignments.law@utoronto.ca). 500 word limit—approximately 250 words for each question. Please use the Faculty of Law written work cover page, identify yourself by your pseudonym, and be sure to include the word count. These essays will be marked on a credit/no credit scale.

Please choose **two** of the following four questions to answer:

Question 1:

Please choose one of the *Kindness Challenges* recommended by Professor Zaki. Which one did you choose? What, if anything, did you learn? Describe what happened, and whether or not you think it was a success.

Question 2:

The Law Society of Ontario's Rules of Professional Conduct (<https://lso.ca/about-lso/legislation-rules/rules-of-professional-conduct/complete-rules-of-professional-conduct>) set forth a "special responsibility" for lawyers not to discriminate in Rule 6.3.1:

SECTION 6.3.1 DISCRIMINATION

Special Responsibility

6.3.1-1 A lawyer has a special responsibility to respect the requirements of human rights laws in force in Ontario and, specifically, to honour the obligation not to discriminate on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, record of offences (as defined in the Ontario Human Rights Code), marital status, family status, or disability with respect to professional employment of other lawyers, articulated students, or any other person or in professional dealings with other licensees or any other person.

[Amended - June 2007, January 2014]

Please reflect on the way this obligation is phrased. Is it sufficient that lawyers refrain from discrimination, or do you think there is a more affirmative role lawyers could play?

Question 3:

How would you articulate the link between wrongful convictions and humility? Identify junctures in the Leighton Hays case where a person's willingness to acknowledge that they may have made a mistake might have significantly changed the outcome. Are there systemic factors that work against our willingness to acknowledge mistakes? How might those be addressed?

Question 4:

Many students indicate that they have never heard of the Pass System before viewing Alex Williams' documentary. Were you aware of the system before the *January Ethics Training*? If so, how had you learned about it? If not, why do you think you never came across that historical information before? Please reflect on the existence of the system (from the 1880's to the 1940's and later), and the subsequent historical treatment of the system (from the 1940's on.). Can you identify connections between these two historic periods?