Practicing Law with Humility

How can Indigenous Laws make Canadian Lawyers better?
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1L Ethics Training – September 27, 2019
Overview

- Indigenous and Anishinaabe Law
- The Grandfather Teachings
- Dabaadendiziwin
- Humility in the Criminal Law: **WARNING murder/gun violence case**
  - NOTE: THIS WILL BE REVISED IN THE JAN 2020 ETHICS TRAINING
- Humility as law students
What is Indigenous Law?
Who are the Anishinaabe?
Who isn’t?
Each of the Seven Grandfathers took a gift out of the vessel and gave it to the boy.
Art: Aura & Chief Lady Bird
In what way(s) are the Grandfather Teachings different from Canadian colonial law?
Dabaadendiziwin
We can talk of humility, but until we can look at the squirrel sitting on the branch and know we are no greater and no less than her, it is only then that we have walked with humility.

Humility is a state of positioning oneself in a way that does not favour one’s own importance over another’s.

Humility is a condition of being teachable.

Humility allows us to recognize our dependence on others and to consider their perspectives along with our own.

To measure out or be careful with your thoughts and views and appropriately apportion your judgements.

Looking outside of your own worldview and considering another perspective.
Humility is not about viewing oneself as being above or below another. It is instead seeing all life as equally deserving of respect. Space must be taken up as necessary, just as it must be given away at times as well.
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How can practices of humility improve your experience as a law student?

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