



# Leadership Initiatives

## Youth Development Programs

### STUDENT INTERN AND PARENT CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Advanced Law and Trial Summit at Georgetown University  
Summer 2018

#### Introduction

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the attorney-client privilege. So sacred is the relationship between lawyer and client, that the attorney-client relationship pre-dates our nation and constitution, and is a distinguishing feature of English and American law that sets our nation apart, even from other democratic countries with different systems of laws.

Communications between lawyer and client are considered privileged communications. A lawyer cannot be compelled to testify or produce records concerning communications with clients, even communications that may pertain to past, or potentially, future, illegal acts.

**The concept of the privileged communications between a lawyer and a client also extend to an attorney's support staff, including interns and contractors hired to assist the lawyer. This can also include student interns, engaged through non-profit educational programs, such as you.**

**By you and your parents<sup>1</sup> signing below, you are agreeing to be legally bound by this Confidentiality Agreement, because you will be assisting attorneys in representing real clients in matters pending in the District of Columbia.** Your failure to maintain the confidentiality of the information you may be exposed to may have incredible consequences to the client, including loss of a job, criminal or civil charges, or in extreme cases, even physical harm or death of the client or third parties, depending on the particular case. It may also expose you to civil or criminal prosecution, or an injunction ordering you to not disclose further information. As set forth below, it will also result in your immediate dismissal from the summer program, as well as potential future licensing and school consequences to you in your future academic or professional career.

The bedrock principle between attorney and client creates the trust and confidence required for proper representation of a client. A lawyer's clients are the most important people with whom they interact. Without them, the practice of law, and our nation's democracy, cannot survive.

#### Agreement to Maintain Absolute Confidentiality of Information

This summer, as an intern for Leadership Initiatives, you will be assisting the attorneys of [Law Firm]. In the course of your work with [Law Firm], you will undoubtedly have access to confidential client information. **It is your most serious responsibility that you in no way reveal any such information and that you use it only in the performance of your internship duties. This includes a prohibition on revealing such information to parents, school officials, or admissions staff at future schools (you may of course discuss**

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<sup>1</sup> Your parents must also be signatories to this Agreement because many of you may not legally enter into binding contracts or agreements, depending on where you sign this document, until you are 18 years old. Your parents are thus signing this document as your legal guardians.

**the information with Leadership Initiatives staff or any of the staff of [Law Firm], as well as general public statements that you worked on a criminal or civil case, and the type of case only).** Should you have doubts about what might be considered confidential information or a violation of trust, you should seek advice from your Leadership Initiatives supervisors, or one of the attorneys at [Law Firm] who will be working with you.

Confidential information can take many shapes, including, but not limited to; the names of clients or even identifying descriptions of clients (such as what they look like); the fact of their visits to the law office or to the [location] to meet with you; the fact of their testimony before a grand jury or meetings with law enforcement, including here, the Federal Bureau of Investigation or relevant Office of Inspector General; documents, notes, overheard conversations; tapes; personal observations; records; research you create or review; financial documents; criminal records; emails or telephone records; or allegations made by others about our clients, or by our clients against other government agencies or third parties.

**None of these types of confidential information may be disclosed either during the summer program, or even after you leave, perpetually (forever), without express written permission, in advance, to do so. You are not only prohibited from discussing this information in person, but may not mention this information in social media of any type, including without limitation, facebook, twitter, reddit, linkedin, snapchat, or other similar services.**

Student interns found to be in violation of this Confidentiality Agreement are subject to immediate expulsion from this summer program, without tuition or travel refund, and may also be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties for disclosure of confidential information. Students who are expelled will also have a record of the expulsion provided to their high school for permanent part of their academic record. Such a record may impact your college matriculation, or future professional licensure. More importantly, you should understand that it could have grave consequences for the client's case or life, the kind of things that simply cannot be undone later.

Also incorporated into this Confidentiality Agreement is the District of Columbia Attorney Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.6. A free copy of this rule must be read prior to signing this Agreement at the following link: <https://www.dcbbar.org/bar-resources/legal-ethics/amended-rules/rule1-06.cfm>. Rule 1.6 applies not only to attorneys, but to you as an intern for an organization working with attorneys. By signing below, you are certifying that you have read the linked Rule. You agree that this Agreement will be subject to interpretation and enforcement in the Courts of the District of Columbia, and you agree to District of Columbia law to resolve any disputes regarding this Agreement. You and your parents, by signing below, also agree that because you are participating in a summer program within the District of Columbia, that the Courts of the District of Columbia have jurisdiction over you in any such dispute, even if you live in another state.

I have read, understand and agree to the provisions herein. I have read Rule 1.6 linked above. This Agreement is binding upon the earliest signature date set forth below.

Signature Block