

DATE: Sunday, October 4, 2009. You will take the practice mid-term either at 1:00 p.m. or at 3:00 p.m., depending on which exam you take.

OVERVIEW:

- ▶ The practice midterm is a tool that is intended to help you learn what law school exams are like. Over the years, many students have found this an extremely useful exercise that will help you be prepared for your final examinations.
- ▶ This practice exam is for all students in the JD program in their first year. **It is mandatory.** The majority of the professors teaching a substantive first-year course (Civil Procedure, Contracts, Elements, Property, or Torts) will prepare a midterm exam question.
- ▶ You will take one practice exam from one of the professors in your section. You will be randomly assigned by the Registrar's office to ensure a fair distribution of students taking each exam.
- ▶ By the week of Monday, October 19, the professors' evaluation of the exams will be finished and you will be able to see each professor's exam question along with his or her explanation or model of the proper ways to have addressed the issues. This means you will have (1) the question and a sense of the requirements for each of your different professors; and (2) one professor's in-depth evaluation of your exam-taking skills at this time.

How will I know which examination I will be taking?

On Friday, October 2, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. the Registrar will post the rooms and courses by Student ID number (C#) in the glass cases outside of Room 209 and on the law school website. The goal is that you don't spend too much time worrying about the particular course in which you are testing and continue to focus on all of your subjects.

How do I get the anonymous grading number?

At UM Law, we do not use names on exams. Instead, we use Anonymous grading numbers (affectionately known as an AGN), because we believe that this helps the faculty grade more fairly. Anonymous grading numbers are now available on **myUM** on your schedule page (not the opening page). *Please note that you should NOT use this practice exam anonymous grading number on your final exam.* You will receive a new, different anonymous grading number for use on your final examinations.

Will the professor know who I am?

No. Because the exams are identified only by an anonymous grading number, the professors will never know who you are and whether you did well or poorly on the practice midterm. You are welcome and encouraged to make appointments with your professors to discuss your exam performance but then, of course, you will no longer be anonymous.

How long is the exam? Will it be open or closed book?

The midterm exams are generally approximately one hour long, but can range from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. The format (including open or closed book) will vary by professor. You will be notified of these requirements prior to the time that you have to prepare for the exam.

May I type my exam using my laptop?

Yes, you may. The law school has contracted with Extegrity to provide the necessary software, Exam4, for students to type their exams using a laptop. If you choose this option you will be responsible for downloading and registering the software. Please refer to the following web site Exam4for FAQs: <http://64.84.16.214/extegrity/UserGuide.asp>. The Registrar's Office will have several training sessions which will be published separately on their web page.

I cannot take this exam on Sunday.

You **must** take the mid-term exam. This is an important tool that is designed to help you. If for religious or other reasons you cannot sit for the exam on Sunday afternoon, October 4th, you may request that the midterm be rescheduled for the make-up time, which will be Monday, October 5th or Tuesday, October 6th. In order to have your exam rescheduled, you should send an email to deanofstudents@law.miami.edu with your name, and C Number so that we can have your examination ready for you at the make-up time.

What if I receive disability accommodations?

Please contact Iris Morera. You will be able to take the practice midterm with your accommodated exam arrangements.

Will there be follow-up?

There will be some form of review and feedback for all students. There may also be some more targeted help for those who have been identified as particularly likely to benefit from this. Please check your law school email account during the week following the return of the exams.

When should I panic?

Don't panic! The midterm can only help you. It will not count towards your final grade. It will give you a sense of what exams are like under realistic conditions. If you do poorly, it will let you know that you need assistance. While mid-term exams can create anxiety, they reduce the stress and anxiety reported by some students at finals time.