

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

Academic Year 2011-2012

LETTER FROM ASSOCIATE DEAN RENÉE DEVIGNE

August 2011

The George Washington University Law School seeks to foster academic excellence in the study of law and to prepare students for participation in the legal profession. Academic excellence, in any discipline, depends on an environment of honesty, integrity, and fairness. This general requirement is heightened by the special mission of a law school - to prepare students for a practice that relies heavily on the honor of its participants. The Law School community expects its members to uphold the highest ethical standards. It expects students to prepare for the duties of honesty and integrity that they will undertake as lawyers by practicing honesty and integrity throughout their time as students.

That is the opening text of *The George Washington University Law School Policy on Academic Integrity*, a copy of which follows this letter. It is your responsibility to read and to become familiar with this policy. You should also read and become familiar with the *University Code of Student Conduct*, which is set forth in *The George Washington University Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities*, a copy of which is provided to all students at the beginning of the academic year, and is also available on the Law School web page and from the Office of the Dean of Students.

You are expected to act in full accordance with the *Policy on Academic Integrity*, which incorporates by reference the publication entitled *Citing Responsibly*, and the *Code of Student Conduct*. Acts of academic dishonesty or any documented misconduct through the University's Office of Student Judicial Services, become part of a student's permanent record and are reported to state bar officials and others entitled by law under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to inquire about student conduct. Accordingly, academic dishonesty and student misconduct may have permanent and damaging consequences beyond the sanctions imposed by the Law School.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students or faculty or student members of the Academic Integrity Committee. Thank you for your cooperation.

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH STUDENT
TO READ AND COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The George Washington University Law School seeks to foster academic excellence in the study of law and to prepare students for participation in the legal profession. Academic excellence, in any discipline, depends on an environment of honesty, integrity, and fairness. This general requirement is heightened by the special mission of a law school – to prepare students for a practice that relies heavily on the honor of its participants. The Law School community expects its members to uphold the highest ethical standards. It expects students to prepare for the duties of honesty and integrity that they will undertake as lawyers by practicing honesty and integrity throughout their time as students. It expects faculty members to comply with their duty of integrity as provided in the University’s Faculty Code.

1.2. The responsibility for creating and maintaining academic integrity in the Law School community is shared by all members of the community– students, faculty, staff, and deans. This Policy on Academic Integrity (the “Policy”) defines and prohibits academic dishonesty. It prescribes procedures to be followed in cases of academic dishonesty. It also exhorts all members of the Law School community to foster a culture of honesty, integrity, and professional responsibility throughout the community.

1.3. The Dean of Student Affairs and the Committee on Academic Integrity (the “Committee”) are responsible for administering this Policy. If a conflict of interest or other circumstances prevent the Dean of Student Affairs from effectively performing her duties under this Policy in any particular matter, the Dean of the Law School (the “Dean”) shall designate an Associate or Assistant Dean (the “Designated Dean”) to serve in her place.

1.4. The Law School’s administrators shall make this Policy available to students and faculty members by posting this Policy on the Law School’s website, and by distributing copies of this Policy to students and faculty members at the beginning of each academic year. The orientation programs for new students shall inform those students of their obligations under this Policy. It is the responsibility of all students to read and familiarize themselves with this Policy as well as the University’s Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities, which is available from the office of the Dean of Student Affairs, and all publications of the Law School designed to implement this Policy, such as “Citing Responsibly.” If, in light of the Law School community’s norms of academic integrity, the propriety of certain conduct is in doubt, students must seek the advice of Law School faculty or administrators.

1.5. Members of the Law School community are presumed to be familiar with this Policy, and are responsible for conforming to its requirements.

2. RECORD RETENTION AND REPORTING; RELATIONSHIP OF THIS POLICY TO BAR ADMISSIONS AND BACKGROUND INQUIRIES

2.1. All students should be aware that a record of academic dishonesty is an extremely serious obstacle to a student's gaining admission to the practice of law.

2.2. The office of the Dean of Student Affairs permanently retains a record of all charges of academic dishonesty issued in accordance with section 7.1.8 of this Policy and the disposition of all such charges. That office permanently retains a record of each such charge regardless of whether the student charged is found to have committed academic dishonesty and regardless of whether a finding of academic dishonesty becomes a part of the student's official transcript as kept by the Registrar. (Information concerning alleged academic dishonesty by a student which does not lead to a charge under section 7.1.8 is discarded upon the student's graduation.)

2.3. Before admitting a candidate to the practice of law, a state bar will inquire, among other things, whether the candidate committed academic dishonesty as a student. Some state bars inquire whether the candidate was ever charged with academic dishonesty. The Law School responds fully to such inquiries before or after graduation. The Law School also responds fully to inquiries concerning academic dishonesty made by those entitled by law to make such inquiries, including, for example, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducting a background check. Academic dishonesty therefore has serious, permanent consequences beyond the sanctions imposed by the Law School.

3. THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

3.1 Mission of the Committee

3.1.1. The Committee shall administer this Policy to promote a culture of honesty, integrity, and professional responsibility throughout the Law School community.

3.1.2. The Committee shall take appropriate steps to help educate the Law School community regarding the responsibilities set forth in this Policy. The Committee shall be responsible for the contents of all publications of the Law School designed to implement this Policy, such as "Citing Responsibly."

3.1.3. Student members of the Committee, except for the voting student member appointed under section 3.2.4, shall be available to serve as student members of hearing panels appointed in accordance with this Policy to determine whether academic dishonesty has been committed.

3.1.4. As provided in section 7 of this Policy, the faculty and decanal members of the Committee shall, after an initial investigation by the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean, investigate allegations of violation of this Policy, shall determine (together with the voting student member) whether charges of academic dishonesty should be brought and the proposed sanctions therefore, and shall present cases to hearing panels.

3.2. Composition and Appointment of the Committee

3.2.1. The Committee shall consist of (a) at least three faculty members and such Deans as shall be appointed to it by the Dean and (b) seven students. The faculty members, Deans and one of the seven students (as provided in section 3.2.4) shall be the voting members of the Committee.

3.2.2. The student members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Dean from a list of students recommended by the Student Bar Association. Students shall serve a two-year term on the Committee and may be recommended and reappointed for a third or fourth year.

3.2.3. The Dean may remove a member of the Committee who, in the Dean's opinion, is not adequately fulfilling his or her duties as a Committee member, and the Dean may fill any vacancy on the Committee.

3.2.4. The student members of the Committee shall elect one of their number to be the voting student member and to perform the functions specified in section 7. If the elected voting student member is unavailable or unable because of a conflict of interest to serve these functions at any time, a substitute voting student member may be designated by the chair of the Committee.

4. THE PLEDGE OF HONESTY

4.1. As a reminder and an affirmation of the duty of academic integrity, each student shall manually sign the pledge of honesty given below for each item of written work submitted at the Law School for credit. Such work includes, but is not limited to, examinations, research assignments, blue book assignments, and any other written submission, such as memos, briefs, notes, and articles.

4.2. The pledge of honesty shall read:

On my honor, I submit this work in good faith and pledge that I have neither given nor received improper aid in its completion.

_____ (Signature of Student)

Faculty members may modify the pledge of honesty in order to conform the pledge to the nature and requirements of particular course assignments.

4.3. With regard to any academic exercise that is submitted for anonymous evaluation, the administration may provide that students shall manually write out their identifying numbers in place of a signature. An identifying number, so written out, shall constitute a signature for purposes of this Policy.

4.4. A clinical course may provide that students shall sign one appropriately worded pledge to cover all documents prepared for filing in court or other purposes during the semester.

4.5. The Dean of Student Affairs shall arrange an appropriate accommodation for any student who, because of disability, is unable manually to sign the pledge of honesty.

5. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY; DEFINITIONS**

5.1. A student who engages in academic dishonesty violates the Policy and is subject to the sanctions set forth in the Policy.

5.2. “**Academic dishonesty**” encompasses any of the following misconduct:

5.2.1. “**Cheating**” - intentionally, knowingly or recklessly: (a) using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; (b) engaging in unauthorized collaboration in any academic exercise; (c) copying from another student's examination; (d) representing material prepared by another as one's own work; (e) obtaining or providing unauthorized information about the contents of an examination prior to its being administered; or (f) failing to comply with rules or instructions governing the administration of an examination or the completion of another assignment with the purpose or practical effect of obtaining an advantage over other students working on the same examination or assignment.

5.2.2. “**Plagiarism**” - intentionally, knowingly or recklessly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, including, without limitation, the intentional, knowing or reckless failure to give attribution when making a direct quotation or when paraphrasing or borrowing facts or information. An intentional, knowing or reckless violation of any rule set forth in “Citing Responsibly” shall be regarded as an act of plagiarism.

5.2.3. “**Fabrication**” - intentionally, knowingly or recklessly falsifying or inventing any information or citation in an academic exercise (including, without limitation, a document prepared in connection with a clinical program) without authorization.

5.2.4. **“Unauthorized multiple submission”** - intentionally, knowingly or recklessly submitting the same or substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for credit in more than one course without the prior consent of each course instructor.

5.2.5. **“Forgery, falsification or misrepresentation of academic records or documents”** - intentionally, knowingly or recklessly making a false statement, concealing material information, or forging a signature on any academic record or document, or making a false oral or electronic statement or concealing material information during an oral or electronic conversation with any law school employee that results in the creation of a false academic record or document.

5.2.6. **Intentionally or knowingly stealing, destroying, damaging or hiding library materials or academic records or documents** of others so as to impede or damage the academic work or participation of others.

5.2.7. **Intentionally or knowingly impeding or damaging the academic work of others.**

5.2.8. **Intentionally or knowingly attempting to commit an act of academic dishonesty**, assisting another to commit or conceal an act of academic dishonesty, bringing a false accusation of academic dishonesty, giving false testimony concerning academic dishonesty, or failing to notify a faculty member from whom a recommendation is requested of a prior sanction imposed under this Policy against the student requesting the recommendation.

5.2.9. **Any other intentional, knowing or reckless misconduct** inconsistent with academic integrity done in connection with any academic exercise or with respect to any academic records or documents.

5.3. **"Academic exercise"** refers to any work constituting a basis upon which a student will be evaluated to earn credit or Law School honors, or to earn other academic honors during the student's time at the law school, including, but not limited to, examinations, research papers (including topic proposals, outlines, and drafts), other writing assignments, oral presentations, work done for credit in clinical programs and on law journals, and work performed in any competition sponsored or conducted by the Law School.

5.4. **"Academic records or documents"** include, but are not limited to, the application for admission, registration and add/drop forms, transcripts, materials submitted in connection with school-sponsored job interviews, and correspondence with University officials regarding academic matters. (Falsification or forgery of non-academic documents, such as financial aid forms, is a violation of the University's Code of Student Conduct.)

5.5. **“Unauthorized”** means without permission or consent or without an objectively reasonable belief that permission or consent has been provided.

5.6. **“Reckless”** means a gross departure from standards of reasonable care with respect to acts prohibited by this Policy.

5.7. A student commits academic dishonesty when the student acts in violation of this Policy with the requisite mental state. An intent to violate the Policy is not required.

6. REPORTING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

6.1. All members of the Law School community share a responsibility to take appropriate action when academic dishonesty has occurred. Any student, staff member, faculty member, or dean who becomes aware of an act of academic dishonesty must bring the matter to the attention of the Dean of Student Affairs.

6.2. The failure to report academic dishonesty is not itself a chargeable offense under this Policy. However, the Policy cannot function, and academic integrity cannot be appropriately promoted, if members of the Law School community do not report academic dishonesty when it occurs. All members of the Law School community must fulfill their duty to report academic dishonesty.

6.3. Students who have committed academic dishonesty are encouraged to report themselves. Self-reporting does not excuse academic dishonesty but may be considered in determining the appropriate sanction.

6.4. Academic Integrity Faculty Counselor(s)

6.4.1. At the beginning of each semester, the Dean of Students or Designated Dean shall name one or more members of the Faculty to the role of “Academic Integrity Faculty Counselor.” Students will be informed as to the identity of the Counselor(s) and also informed that any information regarding academic dishonesty communicated by the student to the Counselor will be considered confidential and will not be subject to the disclosure requirements of this Policy. The Academic Integrity Faculty Counselor will seek to inform students about the Law School’s Policy on Academic Integrity and to respond to student questions.

6.4.2. Unless there is consent from that student, the Academic Integrity Faculty Counselor(s) may not reveal to the Dean of Student Affairs any information communicated by a student to that Counselor in the course of seeking advice regarding student obligations under the Policy on Academic Integrity. Sections 6.1, 6.2 and 7.1.1 shall not be interpreted or applied in a way so as to be inconsistent with the preceding sentence.

6.4.3. The purpose of section 6.4 is to preclude the Academic Integrity

Faculty counselor from violating the guarantee of confidentiality throughout the George Washington University Law School academic integrity process, and any processing of a case by University officials outside of the Law School. Section 6.4 does not have applicability beyond those processes. Thus, Section 6.4 is not meant to establish attorney-client privilege in a court of law. Nor is this provision meant to preclude the Advisor from exercising judgment in seeking other appropriate intervention for a student's situation, including, for example, counseling or law enforcement assistance.

7. PROCEDURES FOR CHARGES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

7.1. Initial Procedures; Informal Resolution

7.1.1. Any person who becomes aware of an act of academic dishonesty shall bring the matter to the attention of the Dean of Student Affairs.

7.1.2. The Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean shall conduct an initial investigation into any allegation of academic dishonesty.

7.1.3. If the alleged academic dishonesty occurred in connection with a class, the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean shall notify the class instructor.

7.1.4. If, after her initial investigation, the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean has reason to believe that a violation of this Policy occurred, she will refer the matter to the voting members of the Committee. The Committee shall request the Dean to appoint one or more Assistant or Associate Deans to complete the investigation of the matter. The investigator(s) shall report the result of their investigation to the voting members of the Committee. The voting members shall review the results of the investigation and determine whether to proceed as specified in section 7.1.7 or section 7.1.8. The non-voting student members shall not participate in the proceedings of the Committee described in sections 7.1.4 through 7.1.8.

7.1.5. During the initial investigation and/or subsequent investigation(s), the investigator(s) shall meet with the student alleged to have committed academic dishonesty and shall inform the student of the evidence upon which the investigation is proceeding. The student shall be entitled to speak and provide other evidence to the investigator(s).

7.1.6. At the time of the first contact with the student in the initial investigation, the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean shall provide the student with the names of the Committee's non-voting student members and the Academic Integrity Faculty Counselor(s) whom the student under investigation may consult about these procedures. Any such individual contacted by the student under investigation may not reveal to the Committee, a hearing panel, or the Dean of Student Affairs (or Designated Dean) the information disclosed by the student unless the student expressly authorizes the individual to disclose such information.

7.1.6.1. If a student under investigation discloses information about a potential violation to one of the non-voting student members of the Committee, the student member shall report this information to an Academic Integrity Faculty Counselor.

7.1.7. If the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean concludes after an initial investigation, or the voting members of the Committee conclude by majority vote after further investigation, that the alleged academic dishonesty did not occur, the Dean of Student Affairs shall record that the allegation was not substantiated. She shall report that conclusion to the student and, if the academic dishonesty allegedly occurred in connection with a class, to the class instructor.

7.1.8. If the voting members of the Committee determine by majority vote that the facts warrant bringing a charge of academic dishonesty, the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean shall present the charged student with a completed copy of the "Charge of Academic Dishonesty" form (a copy of which is annexed to this Policy), in which the nature of the charge and the proposed sanction (as approved by the Committee by majority vote) are set forth. The presumptive sanction to be included in the charge for a substantial violation of this Policy should include, at a minimum, a one-year suspension. Upon presentation of the charge, the student shall also be given a copy of this Policy.

7.1.9. The student shall respond in writing to the charge within fourteen calendar days of receiving it. The Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean may, upon request by the charged student, extend this time limit for good cause shown.

7.1.10. If the student admits the charge and agrees to the imposition of the proposed sanction, the student shall so indicate on the charge form and shall sign the form, and the sanction shall be imposed. A copy of the signed form shall be deposited with the Dean of Student Affairs.

7.1.11. Any person who feels aggrieved by the failure of the Committee, Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean to take action with regard to alleged academic dishonesty may report the matter to the Dean.

7.1.12. All proceedings of the Committee pursuant to sections 7.1.4 through 7.1.8 and the records thereof shall be confidential. Except with the permission of the Dean or as required by law, no faculty member or student member of the Committee or other person acting on behalf of the Law School shall disclose information learned in those proceedings to anyone other than members of the Committee, the Dean, the Designated Dean, the Dean of Student Affairs, the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

7.2. Hearings

7.2.1. Appointment, composition, and role of Hearing Panel.

7.2.1.1. If the charged student believes that the charge is not warranted or that the sanction is not appropriate, or if the charged student fails to respond to the charge within the time specified in section 7.1.9, the Dean shall appoint a panel to conduct a hearing on the charge.

7.2.1.2. The hearing panel shall be composed of three faculty members, none of whom may be members of the Committee, and two students. The student members of the panel shall be chosen from the non-voting student members of the Committee. The hearing panel shall choose one of its faculty members to act as the chair of the panel.

7.2.1.3. The role of the hearing panel is to call and question the relevant witnesses, determine the facts, decide whether the charged student has committed an act of academic dishonesty under this Policy and, if so, determine what sanction is appropriate.

7.2.2. Hearing Procedures

7.2.2.1. The Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean shall supply the panel and the charged student with the charge and proposed sanction and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses who have significant information.

7.2.2.2. The hearing shall be informal. The panel shall be guided by fundamental principles of fair play but shall not be bound by strict rules of evidence or procedure. The hearing may proceed even if the student, having been notified of the hearing, fails to attend.

7.2.2.3. The panel shall give the charged student at least ten calendar days to prepare for the hearing and shall notify the student of witnesses who are expected to appear at the hearing.

7.2.2.4. The panel may, in its discretion, appoint an Assistant or Associate Dean to present evidence and question witnesses so as to bring out evidence supporting the charge of academic dishonesty, to argue in favor of a finding that the charged student committed academic dishonesty, and/or to make arguments regarding the appropriate sanction.

7.2.2.5. The charged student may have an adviser of his or her choice to assist during the hearing. The adviser during the hearing shall not be a present faculty member, staff member or administrator of the Law School or the voting student member of the Committee.

7.2.2.6. The chair of the hearing panel may permit a member of the University's General Counsel's Office to attend the hearing as an observer and to respond to questions of the panel. The University counsel may not be present during the deliberations of the hearing panel following the hearing.

7.2.2.7. The charged student or her adviser may question witnesses called by the panel. The student or her adviser may also call additional witnesses who have relevant information. The panel (and/or its designee under section 7.2.2.4) may question these witnesses and the charged student.

7.2.2.8. Members of the Law School community who have relevant information and are called as witnesses are expected to cooperate in the process. The panel chair may limit the presentation of evidence so as to avoid undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence. The chair may exclude questioning that is abusive or redundant and may limit or exclude testimony that is immaterial or abusive.

7.2.2.9. If the academic dishonesty allegedly occurred in connection with a class, the panel may, and is encouraged to, seek the opinion of the class instructor regarding whether any sanction imposed should affect the charged student's grade. The panel may obtain the instructor's opinion in writing (with a copy provided to the charged student) or by testimony at the hearing.

7.2.2.10. The hearing and the records thereof shall be confidential. Except with the permission of the Dean or as required by law, members of the panel and other persons acting on behalf of the Law School shall not disclose information learned in the hearing to anyone other than members of the panel, the Dean, the Designated Dean, the Dean of Student Affairs, the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

7.2.2.11. Hearings shall be tape-recorded, and the tapes shall be retained for a minimum of three years.

7.2.2.12. All matters of hearing procedure not otherwise governed by the provisions of this Policy shall be determined by the chair of the panel.

7.2.3. Post-Hearing Procedures

7.2.3.1. After the conclusion of the hearing, the panel shall render a decision as soon as practicable.

7.2.3.2. The panel shall determine that the charged student committed an act of academic dishonesty only if it finds that a preponderance of the evidence supports such a determination.

7.2.3.3. If the panel determines that the charged student did not commit an act of academic dishonesty, the panel shall issue a written finding that the charge was not

proved, which the Dean of Student Affairs shall maintain in the permanent records of her office. In such a case, the panel may issue a written opinion setting forth its findings of fact and its conclusion. Any member of the panel who dissents from the panel's findings or conclusion may express his or her dissent in writing, which shall be attached to the panel's written opinion. The Dean of Student Affairs shall maintain the opinion and any dissents in the permanent records of her office.

7.2.3.4. If the panel determines that the student committed an act of academic dishonesty, it shall issue an opinion in writing, signed by all members voting in the affirmative, setting forth its findings of fact, conclusion, and the appropriate sanction. At least four members of the panel must agree with a determination that the charged student committed academic dishonesty and with any sanction imposed. Any member of the panel who dissents from the panel's findings, conclusion or sanction may express his or her dissent in writing, which shall be attached to the panel's written opinion. The Dean of Student Affairs shall maintain the opinion and any dissents in the permanent records of her office.

7.2.3.5. If the panel determines that the charged student committed an act of academic dishonesty, the panel shall decide whether to impose one or more of the sanctions listed in section 8.2. In determining the appropriate sanction, the panel shall consider the seriousness of the offense and degree of the student's intent and it may consider the student's prior disciplinary record, the student's truthfulness and cooperation in the investigation and hearing, whether the student reported his or her own act of academic dishonesty, the need to promote academic integrity at the Law School, and any other appropriate considerations. The sanction determined by the panel, if any, may be equal to, less than, or greater than the sanction initially proposed by the Committee on the charge form. The panel, if it imposes a sanction, shall also either determine whether the sanctioned student shall lose, be denied, or be disqualified for scholarships, academic prizes, awards, or honors, or shall state that this decision shall be made by the Dean at such time as the student may be considered for them.

7.2.3.6. The finding or opinion of the panel shall be the final decision of the Law School. The sanction set forth in the panel's opinion, if any, shall be imposed after ten calendar days from the issuance of the signed opinion, unless the student appeals as provided in the next section of this Policy.

7.3. Appellate Review

7.3.1. If the charged student disagrees with the hearing panel's opinion, he or she has the right to appeal to the University's Vice President for Academic Affairs.

7.3.2. A student desiring to appeal shall, within ten calendar days of the issuance of the hearing panel's signed opinion, provide the Committee with a Letter of Appeal stating the grounds for the appeal.

7.3.3. An appeal may be based only on new evidence that was not available at the time of the hearing and that could not have been discovered by due diligence by that time, evidence of bias on the part of the hearing panel, or failure of the hearing panel to follow the procedures specified in this Policy. Mere dissatisfaction with the outcome of the hearing is not a ground for appeal. Harmless errors shall be disregarded on appeal.

7.3.4. Upon receiving the Letter of Appeal, the Committee shall transmit the complete case file, including the hearing panel's written opinion and the Letter of Appeal, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Committee may include a response on behalf of the Law School to the student's Letter of Appeal.

7.3.5. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall respond to the parties involved, render a decision, and return the file to the Committee.

8. SANCTIONS FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

8.1. In General

8.1.1. The "sanction" referred to above, that may be imposed after the "Initial Procedures" or after the "Hearing," shall consist of one or more of the sanctions listed below. The presumptive sanction to be imposed by the hearing panel for a substantial violation of this Policy should include, at a minimum, a one-year suspension. The foregoing presumption may be rebutted based on the hearing panel's consideration of mitigating factors under Section 7.2.3.5.

8.1.2. The Dean of Student Affairs shall retain a permanent record of any sanction imposed, regardless of whether the sanction is noted on a student's transcript. See "Record Retention and Reporting," in Section 2, above.

8.1.3. The sanction determined under this Policy shall be the exclusive sanction by the Law School for academic dishonesty.

8.1.4. When a sanction is imposed under this Policy for academic dishonesty that occurred in connection with a class, the Dean of Student Affairs shall notify the class instructor.

8.1.5. Any student who has been subject to any sanction under this Policy must, upon requesting a reference from any faculty member, inform the faculty member of the sanction. The Dean of Student Affairs shall remind students of this obligation at the time any sanction is imposed. Any faculty member who has been asked to give a recommendation regarding a student may inquire of the Dean of Student Affairs as to whether that student has been sanctioned under this Policy.

8.2. Sanctions

8.2.1. Expulsion from the Law School.

8.2.2. Suspension from the Law School for a definite or indefinite period with or without conditions of readmission stated in the suspension notice.

8.2.3. A recommendation that the University revoke or suspend a degree previously conferred on the student.

8.2.4. A grade of F, zero, No Credit, or No Pass for the work product, course, or other academic requirement involved, with the permanent notation “Academic Dishonesty–Coursework” on the student’s transcript.

8.2.5. Rejection of the work product involved, with the requirement that the student satisfactorily complete compensatory work.

8.2.6. Loss or denial of, or disqualification for, scholarships, academic prizes, awards, or honors.

8.2.7. A permanent letter of reprimand from the Dean in the student’s law school file.

8.2.8. The permanent notation “Academic Dishonesty–Coursework” or “Academic Dishonesty–Not Coursework” as appropriate, on the student’s transcript.

9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9.1. Scope

9.1.1. This Policy applies to all students pursuing any degree from the Law School, even when such students, including joint degree candidates, are taking courses at other schools, and to all students taking any course offered by the Law School, whether or not they are candidates for a Law School degree. The duties imposed by this Policy also apply to those applying for admission to the Law School.

9.1.2. This Policy does not limit the ability of the University or its departments to charge any student with a violation of any applicable University or departmental code or policy.

9.1.3. The University’s Vice President for Academic Affairs, in consultation with the Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean, shall resolve any conflicts between this Policy and any other University Policy. The Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean, in consultation with the Committee on Academic Integrity, shall resolve any questions regarding the interpretation of this Policy.

9.1.4. This Policy shall apply to all cases of academic dishonesty occurring on or after the date it becomes effective. The hearing procedures of this Policy shall also apply in any case of academic dishonesty occurring prior to the effective date of this Policy in which a hearing panel was not appointed prior to that date, and the other provisions of this Policy shall also apply to such a case where feasible and appropriate. The Law School's prior Policy shall continue to apply to any case of academic dishonesty in which a hearing panel was appointed prior to the effective date of this Policy or amendments thereto. For purposes of this section, the term "this Policy" shall mean the Law School's Policy on Academic Integrity, together with all amendments thereto, as in effect on the pertinent date.

9.2. Timing

9.2.1. All steps in the process described in this Policy shall be taken with reasonable promptness; however, delay in the discovery, reporting, or processing of a charge of academic dishonesty shall not affect the validity of such a charge unless it has made the fair processing of the charge impossible.

9.2.2. No sanction shall go into effect until after opportunity for appeal as provided in this Policy is exhausted. Should appeal procedures not be completed before the due date for grades, a charged student shall receive the grade "I" in any course with regard to which a charge of academic dishonesty is pending until the charge has been finally resolved. No student against whom a charge of academic dishonesty is pending shall be permitted to graduate until the charge has been finally resolved. The Law School may place a hold on the transcript of a student charged with academic dishonesty until the charge has been finally resolved.

9.2.3. A charge of academic dishonesty may be brought against a student who has graduated or left the Law School for dishonesty committed while a student or in the course of applying for admission, provided the passage of time has not rendered the fair processing of the charge impossible.

9.3. Recusal; Substitute for Unavailable Persons

9.3.1. A faculty member or student shall recuse herself from making any determination under this Policy if he or she was directly involved in matters that are the subject of an investigation or charge of academic dishonesty under this Policy, or if other circumstances create a reasonable doubt about her ability to make an impartial determination.

9.3.2. If a faculty member or student declines to recuse herself after a challenge to her participation has been raised by a participant in the proceedings, the issue of recusal shall be determined by (i) the chair of the Committee prior to the appointment of a hearing panel under Section 7.2.1.1, or (ii) the chair of the hearing panel during the pendency of hearing proceedings pursuant to Section 7.2, or (iii) the Dean, if either of the foregoing persons is unable or unwilling to make a determination.

9.3.3. The Dean may appoint a substitute to perform any function under this Policy if the person who would normally perform the function is unavailable or unable to act. Whenever possible, the substitute for a faculty member shall be a faculty member and the substitute for a student shall be a student.

9.4. Annual Report

The Dean of Student Affairs shall prepare and distribute an annual report summarizing all charges made under this Policy in the previous academic year and the disposition of such charges, including the sanctions imposed, if any. The report shall not give the names of the students involved. The report shall be distributed to the faculty and deans and to the President of the Student Bar Association and shall be made available upon request to any student.

Academic Integrity Code, as amended in Spring 2006.
Amendments effective in Fall 2006

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
CHARGE OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

TO: _____ Date: _____
(name of student)

You are charged with:

For the following work product:

For the following class: _____

Date work submitted: _____

Proposed Sanction: _____

Witnesses:

Attached to this charge form are: The George Washington University Law School Policy on Academic Integrity and The George Washington University Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities. You are urged to read these documents. If you wish clarification of the procedures for handling this charge, please see me.

Signed: _____
Dean of Student Affairs or Designated Dean,
for the Academic Integrity Committee

STUDENT RESPONSE

- I admit the charge and agree to the imposition of the proposed sanction.
- I contest the charge and I request that a hearing committee panel be appointed in accordance with the Policy on Academic Integrity. I understand that the sanction imposed by the committee hearing panel, if any, may be greater than that proposed on this form.
- I admit the charge but contest the proposed sanction and I request that a hearing committee panel be appointed in accordance with the Policy on Academic Integrity. I understand that the sanction imposed by the committee hearing panel, if any, may be greater than the sanction proposed on this form.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
REMINDER OF OBLIGATIONS OF SANCTIONED STUDENT

TO: _____ Date: _____
(name of student)

On _____, you were subjected to a sanction in accordance with The George Washington University Law School Policy on Academic Integrity. In accordance with the Policy, it is henceforth your obligation to inform any faculty member from whom you request a reference that this sanction has been imposed.

If you have any questions about this obligation, please see me or the Dean.

Signed:

Dean of Student Affairs (or designated substitute)