

## UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW HONOR BOARD SELECTED EXAMPLES OF HONOR CODE CASES

### VIOLATING EXAM INSTRUCTIONS

Spring 2015

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student accessed unauthorized materials during several daily quizzes in class. The daily quizzes were intended to be “closed book,” meaning no resource materials were permitted. She admitted that she failed to read the course syllabus which indicated the closed book nature of the quizzes, and admitted to having accessed the materials. The student did not make any effort to conceal the materials.

**Result:** Finding of Honor Code Violation after a hearing. The student’s grade for the course was reduced by two and a third letter grades, and the student wrote a letter of apology/explanation to the class.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Spring 2015

**Allegation:** The complaint alleged that the student referred to bits of paper from a pocket or from under the laptop during the closed book exam. Complaint was made after the exam was over.

**Result:** Matter was investigated and considered by Review Panel, but was dismissed for lack of evidence.

**Report to the Bar?** No.

Spring 2015

**Allegation:** The complaint alleged that, during a “limited source” exam the student referred to a prohibited source.

**Result:** Matter was investigated, considered by Review Panel, and proceeded to a full hearing. The Hearing committee found there was no violation due to proctor error.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes, as dismissed.

Fall 2013

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that two students collaborated on a take-home exam, borrowing each other’s work and turning it in as their own. Students admitted conduct immediately, indicating they mis-understood the instructions.

**Result:** Finding of Honor Code Violation after a hearing. Both students’ grades for the course were reduced to D-.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

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### VIOLATING EXAM INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

Summer 2011

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student left an exam room with a copy of the exam question and the scantron answer sheet. Student returned the exam materials.

**Result:** Violation of Honor Code. Student received confidential warning and full letter reduction in course grade. Sanctions reflect opinion that student did not intentionally take the exam materials from the room and that student did not alter the answer sheet.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Spring 2011

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student cheated on a final exam by accessing a cell phone during the administration of the exam.

**Result:** Violation of Honor Code. Student received XF in course (failure as a result of Honor Code violation) and was suspended for one semester.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Spring 2011

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student copied answers from a classmate's work during the final examination.

**Result:** Violation of Honor Code. Student received XF in course (failure as a result of Honor Code violation) and was suspended for one semester.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Fall 2010

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student cheated on a final exam by using a laptop computer to access the internet when use of computers was specifically forbidden by the professor.

**Result:** Violation of Honor Code. Student received XF in course (failure as a result of Honor Code violation) and student sent public letter of apology to class.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Spring 2009

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that two students collaborated on a take-home exam, copying each other's work and turning it in as their own.

**Result:** Finding of Honor Code Violation after a meeting with the Dean in which students admitted the conduct- one had extremely tragic family circumstances that caused the lapse in judgment. Both students received XF in course (failure as a result of Honor Code violation).

**Report to the Bar?** Yes

## UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW HONOR BOARD SELECTED EXAMPLES OF HONOR CODE CASES

### VIOLATING EXAM INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

Spring 2009

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that student continued to work on an exam (on laptop) after the proctor called time.

**Result:** Finding of Honor Code Violation. Student received a full letter grade reduction in the course.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes

### PLAGIARISM

Fall 2103

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student completed several assignments for class by copying word for word from the internet and submitted it as her own work.

**Result:** Finding of Violation after an Honor Board hearing. Student admitted to altering the documents. Sanctions imposed by Hearing committee: Student received an XF in the course (failure as a result of Honor Code violation), was immediately withdrawn from spring classes and received a three and a half (3 ½) year suspension.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Fall 2013

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student copied several sentences from two other students as part of a first year writing assignment.

**Result:** Finding of Violation after an Honor Board hearing. Student admitted the conduct but did not seem to understand the gravity of the situation. Sanctions imposed by Hearing committee: Full letter reduction in course grade and required community service (presentation at orientation for incoming first year students).

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

Fall 2013

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that student copied from and failed to cite to the sources from which the student derived both the facts and analysis of the disputes that were the subject of a final "journal" exercise in the course.

**Result:** Finding of Violation after a meeting with the Dean in which student admitted the conduct. Sanctions proposed by Dean and approved by Hearing committee: Two full letter grade reduction in course (B- to D-) and required community service (presentation at orientation for incoming first year students).

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

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### PLAGIARISM (continued)

Fall 2013

**Allegation:** The complaint alleged that the student had failed to properly cite several portions of a research paper submitted as an Independent Study project. The investigation revealed that the student had inadvertently submitted an earlier draft of the paper rather than the final version, and a review of the document properties revealed that the final version was complete and had not been altered. Based on these findings, the Review Panel found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that an honor code violation occurred and the matter was dismissed without further action.

**Result:** Matter was dismissed.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes, as a dismissed matter.

Fall 2011

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that the student copied the work of his partner and submitted it as his own on a writing assignment.

**Result:** Matter was dismissed. Student was deemed credible and assignment instructions were ambiguous.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes, as a dismissed matter.

### DISHONESTY / ALTERING DOCUMENTS

Spring 2012

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that student submitted a resume and UB Law transcript to a professor, in support of a letter of recommendation for a post-graduate application, both of which contained material alterations, including but not limited to an altered GPA on the resume and inflated grades and grade points on the transcript. .

**Result:** Finding of Violation after an Honor Board hearing. Student admitted to altering the documents. Sanctions imposed by Hearing committee: immediate withdrawal from spring classes (WA) and two year suspension.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes

Summer 2009

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that student fabricated an excuse for missing a scheduled academic commitment for a Mediation Skills class and altered the date on a public record to support the excuse.

**Result:** Finding of Honor Code Violation. Student received XF in course (failure as a result of Honor Code violation) and student was prohibited from participating in clinic without disclosure of violation

**Report to the Bar?** Yes.

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**OTHER**

Fall 2014

**Allegation:** Complaint alleged that student solicited another student to write an assignment for him in exchange for money. The solicited student did not complete the assignment, and the money was not exchanged.

**Result:** The Hearing committee determined that the conduct, while reprehensible, did not fall within the specific wording of the Honor Code because it was not a completed act.

**Report to the Bar?** Yes, as dismissed.