

The Broken Gavel™ Instructor's Guide for Criminal Justice Majors

This Instructor's Guide accompanies The Broken Gavel™ Student Study Guide for Criminal Justice Majors. It is designed as a companion to *The Broken Gavel: A Sneak Peek* by Dashawn Mayweather to support professors, lecturers, and facilitators in delivering a rigorous, discussion-rich, and practice-oriented course module grounded in the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and real-world legal ethics.

Overview & Purpose

This guide equips instructors with tools to:

- Facilitate engaging discussions on legal ethics and client rights.
- Integrate narrative-based case studies into classroom instruction.
- Provide formative and summative assessments that measure applied understanding.
- Foster critical thinking about systemic accountability and professional responsibility.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Identify and interpret key Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct relevant to attorney-client relationships.
2. Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to case scenarios.
3. Critically evaluate systemic barriers to justice and accountability.
4. Demonstrate ethical reasoning in both written and oral formats.



Preparation Steps

1. Read The Broken Gavel: A Sneak Peek in full, with particular attention to 'How Did I Get Here?', 'The Confidante Clause', and 'Legal Terms Decoded'.
2. Review the **Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct (Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, and 8.4(a)(4))**.
3. Familiarize yourself with the Student Study Guide activities and case prompts.
4. Prepare supplemental materials, such as news articles or case law, to contextualize discussions.

Suggested Lesson Flow

****Week 1 – Introduction & Case Context****

- Introduce The Broken Gavel and its relevance to Criminal Justice studies.
- Discuss learning objectives and expectations.
- Read aloud selected excerpts from 'How Did I Get Here?'.
- Facilitate an opening discussion on attorney-client trust and early warning signs of misconduct.

****Week 2 – Legal Terms Decoded****

- Review selected Legal Terms Decoded entries with students.
- Break students into small groups; assign each group a term to analyze.
- Have each group present both the legal definition and its contextual meaning in the memoir.

****Week 3 – The Confidante Clause & Ethics of Storytelling****



- Discuss confidentiality and consent in storytelling.
- Compare personal vs. professional obligations in handling sensitive information.
- Conduct a debate on whether public storytelling can ever justify using another person's private experience without consent.

****Week 4 – Applied Scenario: 'If This Were Your Case... '****

- Present the applied scenario to the class.
- Instruct students to identify implicated rules of conduct.
- Role-play client-attorney conversations to model best practices in ethical communication.

****Week 5 – Assessment & Reflection****

- Administer final assessment (short answer, essay, and group project).
- Facilitate reflective discussion: How has this course changed your understanding of legal ethics?

Assessment Guidance

Formative Assessment:

- Monitor group work discussions for accurate use of legal terminology.
- Use knowledge checks to gauge comprehension and address misconceptions immediately.

Summative Assessment:

- Short answer questions: Grade for accuracy, clarity, and connection to course material.
- Essay: Evaluate depth of analysis, application of ethical frameworks, and originality of proposed reforms.
- Group project: Assess collaboration, quality of presentation, and feasibility of 'Client Bill of Rights' proposals.



Accessibility & Inclusion

- Ensure all documents are screen-reader compatible.
- Provide captions/transcripts for any audio-visual materials.
- Offer alternative assignments for students who may have difficulty participating in live role-plays.

Instructor Tips

- Connect lessons to current events in legal ethics to make material timely.
- Encourage students to draw parallels between The Broken Gavel and their own community observations.
- Use anonymized real-world cases to deepen critical thinking.

Instructor Resources

- State Bar of Georgia – Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct
- ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct
- The Broken Gavel Podcast & Website
- Relevant Georgia Supreme Court disciplinary decisions