*Reality Check Quiz for All Participants*

**Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions**

*Professional Decisions Can Have Professional and Legal Consequences*

The following scenarios are based on real situations in which lawyers may find themselves. To answer these questions, you do not need to know professional ethics rules or conduct research of said rules. This exercise will show you that professional responsibility rules often come from common sense determinations about right and wrong and that you still have agency to make good decisions, no matter how hard they may be.

1. My personal criminal behavior can affect my ability to practice law.

**TRUE FALSE**

1. I have been an attorney for many years, running my own small practice for much of that time. Payments from clients come in waves every quarter, but I hold in a separate account any funds with which my clients entrust me. A recent rare and aggressive cancer diagnosis has completely drained my personal wealth. To access an experimental program, I need $15,000, and I need it quick. I can transfer money out of my client accounts to pay for the treatment and replace that money when it arrives from client payments.

**TRUE FALSE**

1. As a federal prosecutor preparing for a trial, I need to ensure my witnesses will be present. I remember that I can give vouchers to certain witnesses pursuant to a federal statute but do not check whether my witnesses are eligible. Though disclosure of the voucher payments is required by my jurisdiction’s ethics rules and Supreme Court opinions such as *Brady v. Maryland* so jurors can fully evaluate witness credibility, I do not disclose the payments. The trial has begun, and when asked about any necessary disclosures, I realize the disclosures have not been made. What should I do?
2. My client told me he intends to lie on the witness stand and will not take my advice against that action. I should inform the Court of my client’s intent to lie.

**TRUE FALSE**

1. My ability to consume alcohol or drugs will never impact my ability to practice law.

**TRUE FALSE**

1. I recently took on a client in a complex case that could boost my career. However, a few months into representing my client, my spouse is involved in a major car accident and is in critical condition in the hospital. The doctors say my spouse will need to remain in the hospital for at least a few weeks, and I know I have pre-trial deadlines during this time. I am having trouble focusing on work. What should I do?
2. I rent an apartment. Over the past two months, my refrigerator has broken three times. My refrigerator just broke for a fourth time, and I am frustrated. I have previously communicated with my landlord about the problem over the phone; this time, however, I decide to deliver a letter to my landlord on my law firm’s letterhead to demonstrate the seriousness of the problem. There is no problem with using my law firm’s letterhead in this way, especially since this could become a legal problem.

**TRUE FALSE**

1. I am a licensed attorney, barred in one jurisdiction. It is improper for me to give legal advice to my relatives in another jurisdiction that I am not barred in.

**TRUE FALSE**