



# Handout for Ethics Potpourri

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# Coronavirus Pandemic and Stress

- ▶ Let's look at these websites and discuss:

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/mental-health-non-healthcare.html>

More CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Understood.org:

<https://www.understood.org/en/workplace/coronavirus-resources/pandemic-stress-employee-support>

# Benefit Corporations and Certified Benefit Corporations

- ▶ Explore this website link below and we will discuss:

<https://bcorporation.net/>





# Hypotheticals on Legal Ethics

# From ABA Formal Opinion 491

## Five Hypotheticals

#1: A prospective client has significant business connections and interests abroad. The client has received substantial payments from sources other than his employer. The client holds these funds outside the US and wants to bring them into the US through a transaction that minimizes US tax liability. The client says:

- (i) He is “employed” outside the US but will not say how
- (ii) The money is in a “foreign bank” in the name of a foreign corporation but the client will not identify the bank or the corporation
- (iii) He has not disclosed the payments to his employer or any governmental authority or to anyone else; and
- (iv) He has not included the amounts in his US income tax returns.

## ABA Formal Opinion 492 (June 9, 2020)

#2: A prospective client tells a lawyer he is an agent for a minister or other government official from a “high risk” jurisdiction who wishes to remain anonymous and would like to purchase an expensive property in the United States. The property would be owned through corporations that have undisclosed beneficial owners. The prospective client says that large amounts of money will be involved in the purchase but is vague about the source of the funds, or the funds appear to come from “questionable” sources.

## ABA Formal Opinion 492 (June 9, 2020)

- ▶ #3: A general practitioner in rural North Dakota receives a call from a long-term client asking her to form a limited liability company for the purpose of buying a ranch.

## ABA Formal Opinion 492 (June 9, 2020)

#4: The general practitioner in rural North Dakota receives a call from a new and unknown prospective client saying that the client just won several million dollars in Las Vegas and needs the lawyer to form a limited liability company to buy a ranch.

## ABA Formal Opinion 492 (June 9, 2020)

#5: A prospective client in New York City asks a general practitioner in a mid-size town in rural Georgia to provide legal services for the acquisition of several farms in rural Georgia. The prospective client tells the lawyer that he has made a lot of money in hedge funds and now wants to diversify his investments by purchasing these farms but says he doesn't want his purchases to cause a wave of land speculation and artificially inflate local prices. He wants to wire money into the law firm's trust account over time for the purchases. He asks the lawyer to create a series of LLCs to make strategic (and apparently unrelated) acquisitions.