• **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT: EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

Law is a very demanding course of study. The curriculum at NYLS is designed to prepare students for a productive and rewarding professional life. Classroom learning is an essential part of that educational experience. Through classroom discussion, students have the opportunity to learn to think critically and to develop analytical and lawyering skills essential to the successful practice of law. Because classroom learning is so important, the faculty at NYLS has developed guidelines for course preparation and classroom conduct. These guidelines reflect minimum standards of conduct that you should adopt for yourself and expect from your peers. Every student is responsible for helping to maintain a classroom atmosphere in which all can benefit from the educational program at NYLS. Students also are expected to be familiar with the New York Law School *Student Code of Conduct and Academic Responsibility: Rules and Procedures* and to adhere to the Law School's standards. The *Code of Conduct* can be found in the Student Handbook, available on the Law School's portal (go.nyls.edu).

**Preparation**

You should be prepared for every class. On average, you should expect to prepare for three hours per week for every credit hour of class. In other words, for a four credit class like civil procedure, you should expect to spend twelve hours a week reading assigned materials, briefing cases and preparing for analytic discussion in class.

Being prepared for class means not only completing the reading, but also actively thinking about the material. This means, for example, thinking about the questions and problems in the text, imagining the issues left unresolved by the courts and periodically reviewing material already covered in the semester. If you have no questions about the assigned material, you are probably unprepared.

Full-time students are expected to devote most of their time to the study of law. NYLS students should not work more than twenty hours a week during the semester including work as a research assistant and through the work-study program, but not placements for course credit.

**Getting the Most out of Class**

*Freedom of Expression and Respect for Other Students’ Views*

The faculty is committed to fostering an atmosphere of tolerance in which all students feel free to express their points of view. We encourage you to express your opinions in a manner consistent with respect for the views of others. You are welcome to raise legal, policy, political, or ethical considerations when they are relevant to the class discussion, but not to engage in personal attacks or other uncivil comments or conduct.

*Disruptive and Inappropriate Behavior*

Avoid classroom behavior that interferes with the learning experience of other students. Repeated or egregious violations may lead to disciplinary action. Disruptive and inappropriate behavior includes:

- Leaving and reentering the classroom during the same class session;
- Leaving before class is over;
- Packing up before your professor indicates that class is over;
• Engaging in audible or visible private conversations;
• Reading newspapers or other materials that are not related to class;
• Eating disruptively in class;
• Surfing the internet or using your laptop for any activity that is not related to the class;
• Using cellphones.

The faculty is committed to providing a top quality legal education. Every member of the faculty maintains office hours, is available to meet by appointment, or can be reached by telephone or e-mail. We encourage you to contact your professors to discuss class, your course of study, and your future career in the law.