

Contestant ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_



# **BUSINESS LAW AND ETHICS**

(265)

## **REGIONAL 2026**

### **CONCEPT KNOWLEDGE:**

Multiple Choice (50 @ 2 points each)

\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points)

**Test Time: 60 minutes**

### GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Failure to follow any of these rules may result in disqualification:

1. **Submission Requirements:** Contestants must submit this test booklet along with any printouts.
2. **Permitted Items:** Only the equipment, supplies, and materials specified for this event are allowed in the testing area. Previous BPA tests and sample tests (whether handwritten, photocopied, or typed) are not permitted.
3. **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices will be monitored according to ACT standards.

### Multiple Choice Questions

*Directions:* Identify the letter of choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. When organizing files, you notice a case scheduled for a "bench trial." What does this imply?
  - A. The trial will be decided by a jury
  - B. The trial will be public
  - C. The trial will be decided by a judge, without a jury
  - D. The trial involves multiple judges
2. A colleague is unsure how to address a transgender client respectfully. What is the best advice?
  - A. Use the client's legal name until told otherwise
  - B. Ask privately what pronouns and names the client prefers
  - C. Assume the client's pronouns based on appearance
  - D. Wait for the client to correct you if you use the wrong pronouns
3. During a team meeting, you notice a colleague being dismissive towards suggestions from younger team members. What approach best addresses this issue?
  - A. Discuss the importance of respecting all team members' contributions, regardless of age, in a team meeting
  - B. Ignore the behavior; it might improve on its own
  - C. Privately tell the younger team members to be more assertive
  - D. Directly confront a colleague in front of the team
4. You're drafting an email to a client who prefers informal communication. Which style best meets workplace standards while respecting the client's preference?
  - A. Use formal legal jargon to maintain professionalism
  - B. Start with a casual greeting but keep the legal advice clear and professional
  - C. Use emojis and slang to match the client's tone
  - D. Send a brief message without greetings or signoffs
5. In a meeting, a discussion arises about whether to report a minor ethical violation. What guidance does the legal profession provide?
  - A. Ethical violations, regardless of size, should always be reported
  - B. Only report if the violation affects you directly
  - C. Discuss with the violator privately before deciding on further action
  - D. Report only if a client is harmed
6. A document needs to be filed with a federal court, but you're unsure about the procedure. What resource is most appropriate to consult first?
  - A. The state court's website for guidance
  - B. Federal court's official website for filing procedures
  - C. A legal drama series for tips
  - D. Social media groups for legal assistants

7. Your firm is handling a case with significant media attention. A journalist contacts you for a comment. What is the appropriate action?
  - A. Provide your personal opinion on the case
  - B. Politely decline to comment and refer them to the firm's spokesperson
  - C. Agree to an anonymous interview
  - D. Give a detailed account of the firm's legal strategy
8. During trial preparation, a witness confesses to lying about their testimony. What is your ethical obligation?
  - A. Ignore the confession; the witness testimony is crucial
  - B. Advise the witness to continue with their planned testimony
  - C. Report the issue to the attorney handling the case immediately
  - D. Suggest the witness leave the country
9. In a discussion about court structures, a client asks about the role of appellate courts. How do you explain it?
  - A. They are the first level of court and handle most criminal and civil cases
  - B. They review decisions made by lower courts to ensure the correct application of law
  - C. They only handle cases involving constitutional matters
  - D. They are responsible for enforcing court decisions
10. You're assigned to work with a colleague from another cultural background and want to ensure respectful communication. What approach is best?
  - A. Assume your cultural norms apply and act accordingly
  - B. Research stereotypes about their culture to understand them better
  - C. Ask respectful questions about their preferences and communication style
  - D. Avoid discussing cultural differences to prevent any offense
11. When is it appropriate to use jargon with a client?
  - A. When the client is familiar with legal terms
  - B. Never, always use plain language
  - C. Only in written communications, not verbal
  - D. When you want to impress the client with your knowledge
12. During a trial, you notice a member of the public recording proceedings on their phone. What is the appropriate action?
  - A. Join them to record a part for yourself
  - B. Ignore it as it's not your responsibility
  - C. Notify court security or personnel immediately
  - D. Politely ask the person to stop without involving court security

13. A client asks about the implications of filing a lawsuit in federal vs. state court. How do you explain the primary difference?
- A. The choice of court has no real impact on the case's outcome
  - B. Federal courts generally have stricter filing requirements and broader jurisdictions
  - C. State courts are always the preferred option for faster resolutions
  - D. Federal courts are less formal and easier for non-lawyers to navigate
14. You receive feedback that your communication style is too direct and may be perceived as rude. What's the best way to improve?
- A. Dismiss the feedback; your style is fine as it is
  - B. Immediately adopt a passive communication style
  - C. Seek specific examples and ask for guidance on how to communicate more effectively
  - D. Mimic the styles of those who gave the feedback, regardless of your natural style
15. In a discussion about legal ethics, what is the best course of action if you discover that confidential information has been leaked?
- A. Assume someone else will deal with it
  - B. Try to find out who leaked it without reporting it
  - C. Immediately report the breach to your supervisor or ethics committee
  - D. Leak unrelated information to divert attention
16. You're creating a presentation for a diverse audience, including legal professionals and clients. What approach ensures clarity and inclusiveness?
- A. Use complex legal jargon to demonstrate expertise
  - B. Tailor the content exclusively to legal professionals, assuming others will catch up
  - C. Provide a glossary of terms and use clear, accessible language throughout
  - D. Focus on the clients' perspective, neglecting the legal professionals' expertise
17. How should you respond when a client expresses dissatisfaction with a court decision?
- A. Agree with the client and criticize the court for showing empathy
  - B. Listen to their concerns, provide reassurance, and discuss possible next steps
  - C. Tell them to expect disappointment and to move on
  - D. Suggest writing a negative review of the court online
18. A document you need for a case is in a language you do not understand. How do you proceed?
- A. Guess the content based on your knowledge of similar documents
  - B. Ignore the document, assuming it's not critical
  - C. Seek assistance from a certified translator familiar with legal documents
  - D. Use a free online translation tool for quick translation

19. You're tasked with organizing a training session on ethical practices for new hires. What is the key focus to include?
- A. The consequences of unethical behavior include legal and professional ramifications
  - B. Only historical examples of unethical practices, avoiding current issues
  - C. The most lenient ethical standards to ease them into practice
  - D. How to circumvent ethical guidelines when necessary
20. A new legal assistant is struggling to understand complex legal principles. What is the best way to assist them?
- A. Suggest they enroll in a law degree to better understand the basics
  - B. Offer to explain the principle or provide resources that can help
  - C. Ignore their struggle, as understanding comes with experience
  - D. Advise them to look for a different job that is less challenging
21. In an effort to improve workplace culture, your firm has decided to implement a mentorship program. What key elements should be included to ensure its success?
- A. Pairing individuals based on their hobbies outside of work
  - B. Mandatory participation for all staff, regardless of interest or capacity
  - C. Matching mentors and mentees based on career goals and professional development interests
  - D. Assigning mentorship pairs randomly to ensure everyone participates
22. A legal assistant is compiling a case summary and must ensure it adheres to the principle of stare decisis. What must they prioritize in their summary?
- A. The novelty of the legal issue is presented
  - B. Precedent cases with similar facts and legal issues
  - C. The economic impact of the potential judgment
  - D. Personal opinions about the case's societal implications
23. In a discussion about constitutional law, a colleague claims that the Supremacy Clause makes federal law paramount to state laws. How do you explain this clause's function?
- A. It defines the scope of the judicial branch exclusively
  - B. It prioritizes state law over federal statutes
  - C. It establishes federal laws as supreme when there is conflict with state laws
  - D. It outlines the powers of the executive branch
24. During a team meeting, the concept of "Legal Realism" is debated. How do you describe its significance to the practice of law?
- A. It insists on the strict application of established laws without interpretation
  - B. It suggests that law is shaped by social forces and needs, leading to its evolution over time
  - C. It focuses solely on the moral implications of legal decisions
  - D. It denies the relevance of precedents in legal decision-making

25. A client asks for clarification on how procedural law affects their civil lawsuit. What is the best explanation?
- A. It determines the outcome of their case based on the facts
  - B. It governs how their case is presented and processed in court
  - C. It dictates the punishment for the defendant if found guilty
  - D. It provides the legal framework for drafting contracts
26. A legal intern is asked to research cases that demonstrate the doctrine of "separation of powers." What area of law are they primarily examining?
- A. Contract Law
  - B. Constitutional Law
  - C. Tort Law
  - D. Criminal Law
27. What term is used to describe the legal principle that allows federal laws to take action in order to state laws in certain areas?
- A. Federalism
  - B. Preemption
  - C. Jurisdiction
  - D. Sovereignty
28. In a legal dispute, what does the term "amicus curiae" refer to?
- A. A neutral third-party offering expertise to assist the court
  - B. A type of binding arbitration
  - C. A witness's sworn testimony
  - D. A legal doctrine used to expedite proceedings
29. When a lawyer talks about the "burden of proof" in a civil case, what are they referring to?
- A. The obligation to prove one's innocence
  - B. The necessity to demonstrate guilt beyond a reasonable doubt
  - C. The requirement to prove allegations by a preponderance of the evidence
  - D. The duty to present a legal defense
30. Quantum meruit claims are associated with \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. contracts implied by law
  - B. criminal restitution
  - C. patent infringement damages
  - D. environmental restoration costs
31. The concept of "equitable estoppel" prevents a party from \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. changing their position to one that contradicts their previous actions or statements
  - B. filing a lawsuit against a family member
  - C. engaging in competitive business practices
  - D. denying a contractual relationship

32. The "dormant Commerce Clause" refers to the principle that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. state laws cannot discriminate against interstate commerce  
B. Congress must regulate commerce with foreign nations  
C. states have the right to regulate commerce in emergencies  
D. federal commerce regulations are inactive until challenged
33. To regulate non-commercial intrastate activities that have a substantial effect on interstate commerce, the federal government relies on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Supremacy Clause  
B. 10th Amendment  
C. Bill of Rights  
D. Commerce Clause
34. The legal doctrine requiring parties to have a significant interest in a lawsuit's outcome is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. legal standing  
B. due process  
C. procedural fairness  
D. adversarial system
35. In contract law, failure to perform a contractual obligation is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. breach of contract  
B. conversion  
C. unjust enrichment  
D. tortious interference
36. The legal doctrine that bars a party from re-litigating an issue that has already been resolved in a previous case is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. double jeopardy  
B. estoppel  
C. res judicata  
D. specific performance
37. The power of the government to take private property for public use, provided there is fair compensation, is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. eminent domain  
B. civil forfeiture  
C. adverse possession  
D. regulatory taking
38. Which of the following is not typically protected by copyright law?  
A. Literary works  
B. Musical compositions  
C. Ideas  
D. Architectural designs



39. In a criminal case, the prosecution must prove their case \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. by a preponderance of the evidence  
B. beyond a reasonable doubt  
C. by clear and convincing evidence  
D. through direct evidence only
40. The legal principle that a law cannot be applied to actions committed before the law was enacted is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. bill of attainder  
B. ex post facto law  
C. grandfather clause  
D. nunc pro tunc
41. The process by which a court seeks to interpret the meaning and scope of legislation is termed \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. statutory interpretation  
B. judicial activism  
C. legal formalism  
D. stare decisis
42. The right of a government or its agent to take over private property for public use, with payment of compensation, is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. police power  
B. eminent domain  
C. martial law  
D. sovereign immunity
43. A type of defamation that occurs in written or published format is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. slander  
B. libel  
C. disparagement  
D. fraud
44. The legal concept that prevents a person from being tried twice for the same crime is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. habeas corpus  
B. double jeopardy  
C. plea bargaining  
D. self-incrimination

45. An order from a court to either do a specific act, known as a mandatory injunction, or to refrain from doing a specific act, known as a prohibitive injunction, is simply called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. writ  
B. injunction  
C. decree  
D. mandate
46. A situation where a person is held responsible for the tortious actions of another person is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. vicarious liability  
B. strict liability  
C. contributory negligence  
D. comparative negligence
47. The principle allowing for the transfer of risk from one party to another with a contractual agreement is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. indemnification  
B. subrogation  
C. assumption of risk  
D. mitigation of damages
48. The legal standard that most civil cases are decided upon, meaning "more likely than not," is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. beyond a reasonable doubt  
B. clear and convincing evidence  
C. preponderance of the evidence  
D. reasonable suspicion
49. In a personal injury case, the defendant argues that the plaintiff was aware of the risks involved in an activity and chose to participate anyway. This defense is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. comparative negligence  
B. strict liability  
C. assumption of risk  
D. vicarious liability
50. A contract that requires one party to indemnify another for certain actions is best described as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. assignment agreement  
B. indemnity agreement  
C. novation  
D. option contract