

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW
Intellectual Property
Spring 2015

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ETHICS/PROFESSIONALISM ASSIGNMENT

A few years ago in Las Vegas, a firm called Righthaven partnered with a newspaper company to sue bloggers for copyright infringement for making online copies of newspaper articles.

The firm initially had some success getting settlements. Later, however, Righthaven met a string of setbacks in court, including some raising legal ethics questions.

Reading: Read the June 14, 2011 order of Judge Roger L. Hunt in *Righthaven v. Democratic Underground*. (There is a link on the IP class website.)

Assignment: Draft a short statement of 175–300 words providing your thoughts on what lessons can be drawn from this matter. As your audience, imagine either yourself a few years from now or some other relatively new attorney.

Assessment and grading: You will be assessed on your thoughtfulness, your comprehension of the reading, the clarity and correctness of your writing, and the apparent usefulness of your response to the imagined audience. Your assignment will not be given a letter grade. Its impact on your course grade is limited to being considered a part of class participation. (Reference the syllabus for more information.)

Format requirements and due date: You must use the template provided on the IP class website. It has large type and wide margins – please retain these! Turn in your printed-out assignment on paper in class on Thursday, March 26, 2015.

Other sources regarding this matter: Much was written about Righthaven. Steve Green of the *Las Vegas Sun* did a lot of great reporting about it, and there was a great deal of blogging about it – including by me. Note, however, that in order for you to do an excellent job on this assignment, there is no need for you to do any reading beyond the June 14, 2011 order. Please go ahead if you are interested, but do not feel obliged.