

# IRAC Study Hall

# What is the IRAC Method?

- Issue
  - What questions of law do you see in the fact pattern?
- Rule
  - What is the law that applies?
    - Statutes
    - Case law
- Analysis/Application
  - Apply the facts to the rule
- Conclusion
  - What is the answer?

# One way to approach this:

- First, read the fact pattern
  - Just read it straight through to get an overall idea of what is going on
  - What is the question asking? Sometimes the fact pattern itself will specify the question
- Second, read it again
  - This time, take notes of facts that may be significant
- Third, read it one more time.
  - See if there is anything you missed.

# What is the issue?

- What questions are in the fact pattern?
- For example:
  - Could the defendant be charged with a crime? What defenses might he have? Will they be successful?
  - Was a valid will created? Could the will be invalidated for fraud after the testator's death? Would this happen in this case?
  - Can an agent make gifts on behalf of a principle under a power of attorney? What are the limitations on those gifts? Would these particular gifts be permissible?

# Make an outline...

- Have a section for each issue you spot
- I. Issue
  - A. Rule
    - 1. Apply Fact 1
    - 2. Apply Fact 2
    - 3. Apply Fact 3
    - REACH CONCLUSION

# Find the Rule!

- Does the fact pattern itself identify a starting point?
- Lexis
- If in doubt, don't forget non-legal search engines to start you in the right direction
- Ex: Matter of Ferrara, 2006 N.Y. LEXIS 1759; 2006 NY Slip Op 5156

# Apply the facts

- Now that you have found the rule, apply the facts in your fact pattern
- Are your facts similar to the cases you have found?
- Do your facts vary from the statute?
- Are your facts different enough to be distinguishable from the cases you have found?
  - In the present case, the rule would not apply because...

# Come to a conclusion and connect the dots!

- Come to a conclusion for each issue
- Add transitions to your outline to make it complete sentences/paragraphs
- Read the fact pattern one more time to make sure you didn't miss anything and to make sure you answered the questions
- Check your spelling and grammar!!!