### Recap

- Interpreting legislation leg. Is drafted in generic words -> identify elements of each specific article ex: Spoliation Art. 535 of Cap 16 & 85 of Cap. 9
- Interpretation can be flexible vs rigid
- Wrong application of law (appealable) vs wrong Interpretation of law (not appealable)
- Interpretation Act
- Writing format depends on what one is writing
- Judicial acts application, sworn application, sworn reply



## **Legal Research and Interpretation Methodology**

Lecture Title: Legal Writing, Referencing and Ethics

**Lecturer: Dr Elian Scicluna** 

Date: 19/02/2025



## 7. Writing – Legal Writing – Legal Correspondence

- 1. Letters to clients informing of status of case
- 2. Letter of opinions mostly done yearly for auditing of account purposes
- 3. Letters to counterparties At initial stage pre-proceedings, during proceddings (on a without prejudice basis), post proceedings for collection of fees and expenses, if suit is won with costs





## 7. Writing – Legal Writing – Legal Correspondence – "Without prejudice"

- The term 'without prejudice' will generally prevent statements made in an attempt to settle an existing dispute, whether made in writing or orally, from being put before the court as evidence of admissions against the interests of the party which made them
- Emails can also be without prejudice
- E.g:- A owes B 10,000 euro
- B sends legal letter to A calling for payment of the 10,000 euro
- B replies with a 'without prejudice' legal letter saying that he does not owe money but to settle the matter amicably offers the 3,000euro
- A cannot submit B's legal letter in a court case since it is without prejudice
- Chamber of Advocates Paper http://avukati.staging.wpx.rightbrain.cloud/wpcontent/uploads/2018/02/Guidleines-on-the-use-of-the-term-Without-Prejudice-1.pdf





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## 7. Writing – Legal Writing – Legal Correspondence – "Without prejudice" email

#### **WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Dear Dr. Vella,

Reference is made to the Provisional Estimates issued on 3rd May 2017 in respect of Vat Reg.XXX:

- Output Tax Eur 24,274.80
- Administrative Penalty Eur 4,854.96
- Interest Eur 8,103.45.

A meeting is hereby being requested to discuss prospects of reaching an agreement between the parties, to reach an out of court settlement on this pending matter.

In the interim period, the appeal case (XX/XX) is to be put on hold until a settlement is reached.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Best regards,



- Case summary
- Include only most relevant facts of the case that highlight the main issue, identify the applicable law, application of the law to the issue, include court's reasoning and decision
- Check for assenting or dissenting opinions especially when dealing with ECHR judgments
- The summary of the facts is only a small fraction of case briefs

Example: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v="wzWq">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= wzWq XJE-w&t=1s</a>



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# 7. Writing – Legal Writing – Legal Briefs/ note of will will be submissions - sottomissjonijiet/ observations - osservazzjonijiet

- <a href="https://legaldictionary.net/legal-brief/">https://legaldictionary.net/legal-brief/</a> definition:-
  - A short and concise statement
  - A document that presents a legal argument to a court explaining why that party should prevail over the other
- Maltese version known as note of submission/ note of observation
- Art. 165 and 166 of Cap. 12:

165. It shall be lawful for the court, on the case being closed, at the request of either of the parties, to grant leave for filing, within a time to be fixed by the court, a written pleading containing a summary of his submissions provided the opposite party shall not show that such leave would cause a delay to his prejudice

166. Where leave as provided in the last preceding article is granted to either of the parties, the opposite party shall be entitled to file in reply another written pleading within a time equal to that which shall have been fixed by the court as aforesaid, to be reckoned from the day of the service of the written pleading for the filing of which the court shall have granted leave.

- Legal brief may be done orally unless there are complicated legal issues/ facts
- May even take 3-4 days if matter is complex
- Brief needs to persuade
- If writing on behalf of plaintiff, quote application, reply, counterclaims and replies and any decrees or interim judgments given
- If writing on behalf of defendant, no need to quote application, reply and decrees unless you need to make reference to them
- Must be concise approx. 3-5 pages of observations/ submissions
- Go through court file, refer to fol. numbers for easier reference
- Target legal issues
- Do not include facts/evidence which does is not relevant
- Research case law
- Refer to the elements of the law
- Conclude by requesting the remedy sought
- Mostly done in Maltese
- Similar process is used for appeals and replies







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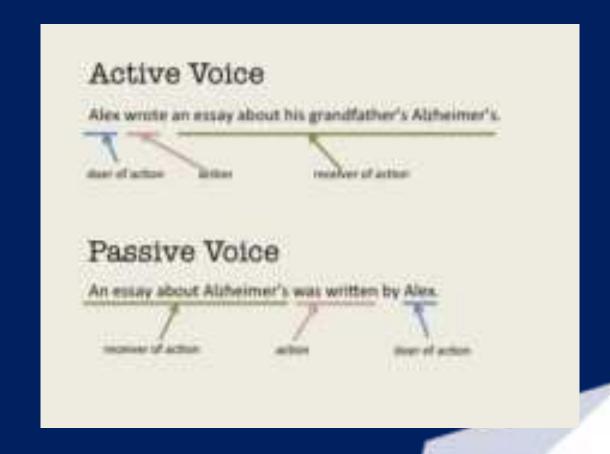
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## 7. Writing – Legal Writing Tips

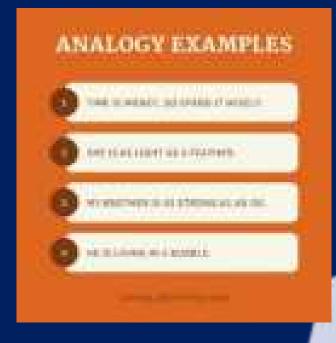
- Use active voice unless you want to emphasise active voice: the subject of sentence performs the action.
- Application will be targeted toward judge and opposing legal counsel unless it is a judicial letter
- Make objective not personal arguments
- Be direct and straight to the point
- Request in application must be clear
- Try to stick to short sentence
- Use citations
- If drafting note of submission/ observation/ appeal provide the solution/ answer to the problem
- If judicial letter use simpler language since it is directed to the opposing party who might not know legal terms
- In notes of observations/ submissions/ appeal applications if plaintiff, quote application and reply. If replying as defendant, no need to quote application and reply
- Make reference to case law if any and authors
- Watch for deadlines and particular articles of the law
- Video 10 Legal Writing Tips with examples: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsJuGSL9vyg&t=99s



### 7. Writing – Legal Writing Tips

Ross Guberman "Point Made – How to Write Like the Nation's Top Advocates" tips:-

- 1. Provide the context of the case explain who are the parties, what question is the case trying to answer, when and where the event happened and why should you win
- 2. Structure the argument section
- 3. Given the court a reason to want to find for you include judicial fears: i. The fear of applying the wrong law, ii. the fear of creating new duties, rules or defenses and iii. The fear of reaching an unfair result or causing harm e.g. Include the possibility of anti-constitutionality of a judgment if awarded in a particular way
- 4. Pre-empt your opponent's arguments
- 5. Use headings to attract attention
- 6. Acknowledge bad facts but put them incontext and counte them by other arguments
- 7. Show why your client is right and if your client is in the wrong humanize the situation
- 8. Use analogies
- 9. Answer questions which the court might raise when writing the judgment
- 10. Link you case or party with caselaw you made reference to i.e. Applicability
- 11. Show that opponent's caselaw is less applicable or inapplicable to caselaw cited by yourself
- 12. Search opponent's caselaw
- 13. Use figures of speech
- 14. Use rethorical questions to impugn opponent's arguments
- 15. Use tables and charts to add interest
- 16. End the argument with a provocative quotation or thought
- 17. Wrap up by recasting your main points



### Referencing

- Referencing allows you to acknowledge the contribution of other writers and researchers in your work.
- Used to avoid plagiarism if used correctly
- Various referencing styles e.g. OSCOLA (law), Harvard (economics), APA (psychology), MLA (language and literature)
- OSCOLA Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities <a href="https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/OSCOLA">https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/OSCOLA</a>
- OSCOLA referencing system is used for legal referencing in Malta incl. legislation, case law, books, journals, websites and other sources.
- Complete guide accessible on <a href="https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola\_4th\_edn\_hart\_2012.pdf">https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola\_4th\_edn\_hart\_2012.pdf</a>
  Updates and FAQs available on <a href="https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola-faqs">https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola-faqs</a>
- Video:

University Law Teacher Explains OSCOLA Referencing and Bibliographies - YouTube

- Generators
- OSCOLA Referencing Generator | Reference Tool (lawteacher.net)
- Free OSCOLA Referencing Generator by Cite This For Me



### Referencing

- OSCOLA distinguishes between primary and secondary sources
- Primary sources are legal sources, such as cases and legislative documents. Secondary sources include books, journal articles, and websites.
- In 2022 the GHSL (Ghaqda Studenti tal-Ligi) adapted the OSCOLA guideline to the Maltese Context



### **Referencing - Legislation**

Example OSCOLA References for EU Legislation

Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community [2007] OJ C306/0

- Example OSCOLA References for Common Law Legislation:-
- Housing Act 2004 (Commencement No. 6)(England) Order 2006, SI 2006/3191, art 2(a)
- Reletting of Urban Property (Regulation) Ordinance, 1931
- Reletting of Urban Property (Regulation) Ordinance, 1931, s 4A (can also use A for article)
- "s" in "s 4A" is short for section. If it was more than one section, therefore sections, abbreviation would be "ss"
- Other abbreviations: subsection/sub-sections sub-s/sub-ss, schedule/s –sch/schs, regulation/ regulations reg/regs, article/articles art/arts

### Referencing – Caselaw

PARTY NAMES, YEAR, VOLUME NUMBER, REPORT SERIES, FIRST PAGE OF REPORT, INITIALS OF THE COURT

Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884

• The example above shows that this is a case involving Corr and IBC Vehicles Ltd. It was the thirteenth judgement issued by the House of Lords (UKHL) in 2008. It also indicates that a report of the judgement can be found in volume 1 of the series of the Law Reports called the Appeal Cases, beginning at page 884.

Joseph Borg vs Mary Borg [2022] (P.A)

• Order may change e.g. Initials of court are given after the year



### Referencing – Maltese Caselaw



### **Referencing - Books**

• AUTHOR, TITLE, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, EDITION, PUBLISHER YEAR

Gareth Jones, Goff and Jones: The Law of Restitution (1st supp, 7th edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2009)

Chapters in Books with multiple editors - AUTHOR, TITLE, IN EDITOR (ED), BOOK, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PUBLISHER, YEAR

Justine Pila, 'The Value of Authorship in the Digital Environment' in William H Dutton and Paul W Jeffreys (eds), World Wide Research: Reshaping the Sciences and Humanities in the Century of Information (MIT Press 2010)

### Referencing – Journal Articles

- Start with the article author (first name/initial then surname,), then the article title in single quotes.
- After the title, give the publication information in the following order:
  - 1. year of publication, in square brackets if it identifies the volume, in round brackets if there is a separate volume number;
  - 2. the volume number if there is one (include an issue number only if the page numbers begin again for each issue within a volume, in which case put the issue number in brackets immediately after the volume number);
  - 3. the name of the journal in roman, in full or abbreviated form, with no full stops; and
  - 4. the first page of the article.
- Articles from journals without independently numbered volumes should follow the format: AUTHOR, TITLE, YEAR, JOURNAL NAME
   OR ABBREVIATION, FIRST PAGE OF ARTICLE.

Paul Craig, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440.

• Articles from journals which do have independently numbered volumes should follow the format: AUTHOR, TITLE, YEAR, VOLUME, JOURNAL NAME OR ABBREVIATION, FIRST PAGE OF ARTICLE.

Alison L Young, 'In Defence of Due Deference' (2009) 72 MLR 554.

• Put a comma after the first page of the article if there is a pinpoint (particular reference to specific paragraph or page

JAG Griffith, 'The Common Law and the Political Constitution' (2001) 117 LQR 42, 64.

### **Referencing - Websites**

Follow the general principles for citing secondary source:-

- 1. Give the author's name exactly as it appears in the publication.
- 2. If no individual author is identified, but an organisation or institution claims editorial responsibility for the work, then cite it as the author.
- 3. If appropriate to cite an anonymous source (eg blog) start citation with the title.
- 4. All titles should be within single quotation marks and in roman. Capitalize the first letter in all major words in a title.
- The most important features of a citation to a website are the web address in <angled brackets> and the date on which you accessed it.
  - Sarah Cole, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (Naked Law, 1 May 2009) <a href="http://www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05/index.html">http://www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05/index.html</a> accessed 19 November 2009
- If you source a publication online which is also available in hard copy, cite the hard copy version. There is no need to cite an electronic source for such a publication
- For online journals AUTHOR, TITLE, YEAR, VOLUME/ISSUE, JOURNAL NAME OR ABBREVIATION, <WEB ADDRESS>,DATE ACCESSED.

Graham Greenleaf, 'The Global Development of Free Access to Legal Information' (2010) 1(1) EJLT <a href="http://ejlt.org/article/view/17">http://ejlt.org/article/view/17</a> accessed 27 July 2010



### Referencing – General Principles

#### Quotations

- 1. Quotations that are three lines or shorter should be incorporated in the text. Use 'single quotation marks', but if you need to submit your work to Turnitin, use "double quotation marks".
- 2. Quotations longer than three lines should be an indented paragraph. Do not include quotation marks.

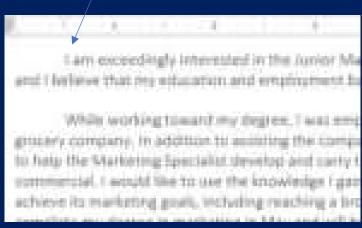
#### **Footnotes**

- 1. Put the footnote marker at the end of a sentence, unless for the sake of clarity it is necessary to put it directly after the word or phrase to which it relates
- The superscript number (footnote number) should be after the full stop or comma

#### Authors' names

- 1. Give the author's name exactly as it appears in the publication, but omit postnominals such as QC
- 2. If there are more than three authors, give the name of the first author followed by 'and others'
- 3. If no individual author is identified, but an organisation or institution claims editorial responsibility for the work, then cite it as the author
- 4. If no person, organisation or institution claims responsibility for the work, begin the citation with the title
- 5. In footnotes, the author's first name or initial(s) precede their surname
- 6. In bibliographies, the surname comes first, then the initial(s), followed by a comma

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### Referencing – General Principles

#### Titles

- Italicise titles of books and similar publications, including all publications with ISBNs
- 2. All other titles should be within 'single quotation' marks and not in *italics*
- 3. Capitalize the first letter in all major words in a title
- 4. Minor words, such as 'for', 'and', 'or' and 'the', do not take a capital unless they begin the title or subtitle

### Referencing – General Principles

#### Dates

- 1. When a full date is required, the format should be '1 January 2016'
- 2. There is no specific need for 'st' or 'th' after the day
- 3. If something spans more than one year in the same century, the format is '1972-84'

#### Subsequent Citations

- 1. If a citation is the same as the one immediately before it, you can put 'ibid' in the footnote
- 2. If the citation is the same as another, you can use a shortened form, followed by a reference to the footnote e.g. Stevens (n 1) 110.

#### OSCOLA Quidi Reference Guide

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#### **Diploma in Law (Malta)**



### Bibliography

Bibliography should be at the end of the work. It lists all sources used in the work. Each source only needs to be listed once, even if you have referred to it multiple times in your work. Do not include background reading in your bibliography. The bibliography should appear after the text and after appendices. The bibliography should list the sources in alphabetical order.

Video: OSCOLA: Creating a Bibliography https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZJuw0\_wCNk

Bibliographies take the same form as all other citations in OSCOLA, with 3 exceptions:

- 1. The author's surname should precede his/her initial(s), with no comma separating them, but a comma after the final initial;
- 2. Only initials should be used, and not forenames;
- 3. The titles of unattributed works should be preceded by a double em-dash. Works should be arranged in alphabetical order of author surname, with unattributed works being listed at the beginning of the bibliography in alphabetical order of first major word of the title.

Jones G, *Goff and Jones: The Law of Restitution* (1st supp, 7th edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2009)

Knapton S, 'Bad Owners to Blame for Aggressive Animals not their Breed' *The Daily Telegraph* (London, 3 Dec 2013)

<a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/pets/10491808/Bad-dog-owners-to-blame-for-aggressive-animals-not-their-breed.html">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/pets/10491808/Bad-dog-owners-to-blame-for-aggressive-animals-not-their-breed.html</a> accessed 16

Nov 2020)

If your piece of work is long, you can divide the bibliography into three sections: Cases, Legislation, and Bibliography

Unlike in footnotes, the author's surname should be listed first, followed by the author's initials. Unlike in the footnotes, you do not list the author's first names, just initials. The secondary material should also be listed alphabetically. If citing more than one work by the same author, list the author's works in chronological order (oldest first), and in alphabetical order of the first major word of the title within a single year.

#### For cases:-

- 1. Do not italicise case names.
- List cases alphabetically in order of the first significant word. If the parties involved are only identified by initials the case should be listed under the initial.

For Legislation - This should include every statute listed in your piece of work (unless your lecturer has told you differently). Legislation should be listed in alphabetical order. Statutory Instruments should be listed separately after Statutes.

 A longer legal work, such as a book or a thesis, generally has a list of abbreviations and tables of all the cases, legislation and other primary legal sources cited in the work in the preliminary pages. The list of abbreviations should come before the tables, and the order of the tables should generally be: table of cases; table of legislation; other tables.

### Plagarism

- The University Assessment Regulations, 2009 (University of Malta) define plagiarism as "the unacknowledged use, as one's own, of work of another person, whether or not such work has been published, and as may be further elaborated in Faculty or University guidelines".
- Plagarism can be major or minor
- Major plagiarism is meant to cover what is generally understood to be prototypical plagiarism (significant unacknowledged borrowing), whereas minor plagiarism covers offences that could be construed as plagiarism but may be the result of academic incompetence, thus bringing into question the intent to deceive.
- Minor plagiarism also includes instances of unacknowledged borrowing whose contribution to a piece of writing is considered to be of little significance, with the proviso that repeated instances may escalate into a major offence.



### Major Plagarism cases and examples

- 1. Significant unacknowledged copying of text, diagrams, tables, images or other material from any published or unpublished material, lecture slides or handouts, whether such material is in manuscript, print or electronic form.
- 2. Acquisition of work, designs, or concepts (including buying or commissioning work from third parties/professional agencies) prepared by one or more others and presenting the work in whole or in part as the student's own work.
- 3. Significant amounts of patchwriting (i.e. changing only some of the words, or the order of the words, or redrawing diagrams, etc.) with or without citation. Patchwriting should not be confused with paraphrasing, which is the appropriate (and acknowledged) rewriting of ideas present in a source text in the student's own words and should be actively encouraged as a feature reflecting maturity in academic writing.

### Major Plagarism cases and examples

- Examples:
- > Copying text or a diagram from another source, failing to enclose the copied text within quotation marks, or taking somebody else's ideas, and failing to correctly acknowledge the source of the text, diagram, or ideas.
- > Purchasing a paper or report from a 'paper mill'; paying others to prepare an assignment but then submitting the work under your own name.
- ➤ Copying text but replacing some words or changing word order, whether or not the source is correctly acknowledged; re-drawing diagrams and failing to acknowledge the source.



### **Minor Plagarism**

#### Minor offences of plagiarism include:

- 1. Individual in-line citations lacking corresponding entries in the references section, or failure to compile a references section.
- 2. Demarcated text without in-line citation or instances of incomplete or inconsistent in-line citation.
- 3. Incorrectly written entries in a reference list, when this results in the reader's inability to create a correspondence between the entries in the reference list and in-line citations.
- 4. Inconsistent citation style, when this results in the reader's inability to identify sources.
- 5. Unacknowledged borrowing that does not contribute significantly to the text in question

Minor plagiarism usually involves cases where the student has used his/her own words by correctly paraphrasing or delimiting words that are others' (e.g., by enclosing them inside quotation marks), but where some references and citations are incomplete or inconsistent. As incomplete, inconsistent, or incorrect referencing means that an examiner may be unable to refer to the sources where the claims you make are substantiated, this constitutes minor plagiarism (at best), and academic fraud, in which claims are simply invented by the student and the reference to the source is deliberately obfuscated (at worst).

#### **Diploma in Law (Malta)**

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#### TIMES THALTA.

#### University Dean's article withdrawn over plagiarism claim

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### Tips to avoid plagarism

- Keep track of sources immediately as you find them
- Cite and reference sources as you go along
- Use proper citations
- Quote ("") or paraphrase (express meaning using different words). Quote sparingly. Quotes are appropriate:-
  - You're using an exact definition, introduced by the original author
  - It is impossible for you to rephrase the original text without losing its meaning
  - You're analyzing the use of language in the original text
  - You want to maintain the authority and style of the author's words
- Credit the original author
- If need be inform the reader where the original claims, and evidence supporting them, are made
- Use a plagarism tracker

### Collusion

- Collusion occurs when two or more students collaborate to produce work, where such collaboration is not permitted. Examples:
- 1. In supervised examinations, it is expected that students work individually, and no sharing of ideas or material is allowed; only reference to permitted resources is allowed
- 2. In home assignments, unless otherwise specified, it is expected that students work individually, and no sharing of ideas or material is allowed; however, reference to publicly available information is permissible (with appropriate citation)
- 3. If a home assignment is an individual assignment, students are permitted to communicate orally such that the problem assigned is understood however, students are not permitted to share material
- 4. If a home assignment is specifically group-work, it is expected that students take individual responsibility for the individually submitted contribution, but collective responsibility for the aspects of the submitted work that required a joint effort.

Examples: borrowing of assignment, sharing of work and incorporting them in your work, sharing solutions to problems,

## **Ethics – Research Ethics & Professional Ethics**

- Research Ethics There are cases where unethical means are used to produce a report/ paper since it is easy and quick e.g. Of unethical means – copying someone's idea and claiming it as yours
- There are no strict rules to be observed in research
- A set of principles developed over time

What is research ethics?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcbPqhwJzcg



### Research Ethics





- Ethical principles stress the need to:-
- 1. Do good (a.k.a beneficence) Researchers should have the welfare of the research participant as a goal
- 2. Do no harm others an obligation not to inflict harm on others

In practice, these 2 principles mean that as a researcher, you need to:

- (a) obtain informed consent from potential research participants (explain what is the research about, why are they taking part in the research, opt for volunteers if possible)
- (b) minimise the risk of harm to participants (incl. psychological distress, financial status and invasion of privacy). Minimise risk by obtaining written consent forms, protect anonymity by removing names, surnames and other details
- (c) protect their anonymity and confidentiality (do not include unecessary data, seek permission for divulging sensitive data)
- (d) avoid using deceptive practices (e.g. Identity or purpose of researcher are not given;
- (e) give participants the right to withdraw from your research.
- (f) Obtain consent from research institutes/ authors
- (g) Avoid plagiarism

### **Research Ethics**

Efficial insure	Definition	
Websetary participation	Your participants are five to again in in out of the study at any point in time.	
Informed cornect	Participants show the purpose, treneffts, risks, and funding behind the study behind they agree or decline to join.	
Ananymity	You don't know the standing of the participants. Personally intentifiable data is not indicated.	
Confidentiality	Yes know who the participants are but you here: that information hedden from everyone star. You according personally Manichalos status as that if son't be linearly to other basis by anyone star.	
Protectivi for tucces	Physicial, social, psychological and all salver types of harm are legit to an absolute exercises.	
flesuits communication	The employ your work is free of pluggerism of lessearch intercentact, and you according represent your results.	



### **Code of Ethics - Notaries**

- Notaries' Code of Ethics Regulations S.L. 55.09 regulates:-
- 1. Conduct and Diligence
- 2. Independence and Impartiality
- 3. Professional Relationships
- 4. Unlawful Competition
- 5. Professional Secrecy and Confidentiality



https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/55.9/eng
Notary is deemed to be an independent professional



### **Code of Ethics – Lawyers**

- COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR ADVOCATES accessible on https://www.avukati.org/download/code-of-ethics/
- Not an act or formal legislation but still a binding code
- Aim:

The purpose of this Code is to ensure that advocates do not act abusively or negligently or in a manner repugnant to the decorum, dignity or honour of their profession or in such manner as could seriously affect the trust conferred on them.

#### Regulates:-

- The conduct of advocates
- 2. Relationship with clients obtaining of instructions, taking of instructions, duties owed to clients during a brief
- 3. Professional Fees
- 4. Conflict of Interest
- 5. Confidentiality lawyers are bound by the Professional Secrecy Act
- 6. Obligations to others Relations with third parties, relations with other advocates
- 7. Particular areas of practice litigation and advocacy, advocates in employment,
- 8. Lawfirms and associations definitions and applications



## Notarial Council and Commission for the Administration of Justice

- Notarial Council has regulatory powers over notaries
- Commissioner for the Administration of Justice has regulatory powers over lawyers and legal procurators
- Notaries, lawyers and legal procurators may be suspend, disqualified or issued with a fine
- Ban/suspension/disqualification may also be publicized



## Former notary gets suspended sentence for misappropriation

**Diploma in Law (Malta)** 

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Trienthly broke out with the clients and he had even looked to but water with a cottent judge who environd his potential deets, said explained.

A guranider order insured in hissons of the VAT department further aggreested his position, once his overdraft was blocked and other accounts from making it impossible for him to register published deads, poping the amounts due in tax and duty on documents.

However, on the Suns of all enidous pur forward, the court, penalish over by suggistion Monica Sella observed that the scan had secured in 2013 and the gazunders order had been bound the following year:

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hold ones the mongroup taken had been "angly proced," said the court.

Year's better than elections of the manappropriations load to fork our fresh mans to have their dends registered, the court eliments.

As a politile officer and by was of his probability, the serviced was broad to excisive a greater degree of diligence than the ordinary person, and the court, may make a



## Notary jailed for seven years for misappropriating funds from 85 clients

Thomas Vella ordered to repay clients following a guilty plea

National Court Crime

February 6, 2026 | Jacob Borg

https://timesofmalta.com/article/notary-jailed-seven-years-misappropriating-funds-85-clients.1104787

