Multi-state Exam Attack Plan

Pre-Exam
• Practice a number of multi-state questions in advance of your exam. Read the explanations why you received an incorrect answer and why you received a correct answer.

• To “warm-up,” you should practice 5-10 multi-state questions right before an exam. Do not worry if you answer incorrectly. A lousy practice can often make for a great exam performance.

• Unless otherwise directed, if you have difficulty with multi-state questions, choose to answer the essay part of the exam first. It may save time and help you ease into the exam with confidence.

Exam
• Read the call of the question first before reading the hypo. It often signals the area of law on which to focus while reading.

• Read actively, carefully, and quickly. You have less than two minutes per m-s question. Circle parties, dates, relationships. Underline relevant facts. Diagram complex facts and transactions. Always ask why the testmaker is putting a certain fact into a sentence.

• Once you have read the call of the question and the hypo, cover up the answer choices and try to answer it in your head.

• If you know what the correct response should be, do not look among the choices for your answer. Instead, use the process of elimination to cross out incorrect answer choices; then consider the choices that remain. Your initial answer might be a good one, but there can be a better answer among the remaining choices.

• Hit and move on! Do not skip around. Answer each question in sequence, circling a question you are unsure of on the exam page to return to if time allows. Make sure the answer choices on your exam sheet and your scantron match up. To avoid misaligned answers, always answer in sequence but circle the question on your exam paper to return to it if time allows.

• Be wary of answer choices with absolute terms such as, “every,” “all,” “always,” “must,” and “only.” In law, absolutes are rare. Relative words like, “usually,” “often,” “generally,” and “seldom” are more often correct choices.
• If two answer choices mean exactly the same thing (e.g., “legal cause” and “proximate cause”) and “All of the above” is not an answer option, both are wrong. Cross them out.

• If two answer choices are opposites the answer cannot be “All of the above.”

• Check to see if one answer choice sticks out as “odd.” There is only one correct answer to the question so it has to somehow be different from the other responses.

• If double negatives confuse you, cross them both out to read the response in the affirmative (e.g., not untruthful = truthful; not irresponsible = responsible).

• If an answer choice is not in a subject area being tested, but is in another part of the course, it is likely the wrong answer. (e.g., “res ipsa loquitur” is a term used in negligence actions, not in intentional torts).

• Unless you are absolutely sure an answer choice is wrong, do not second guess yourself and change it. Go with your first impression.

• Do not leave any questions/scantron grids blank. If you run out of time or do not know the answer, pick one letter and fill in the answer choices that remain with that one letter.

• If you run out of time and cannot read a long fact pattern, go to the call of the question and then read the answer choices. Without reading the hypo, you may be able spot incorrect statements of law. Eliminate them and you will increase your odds of selecting the correct response.

• Use the test to your advantage. An answer you are originally unsure of may be answered in a later question.

• Attend your T.A. sessions. They can give valuable insight into a professor’s testing strategy.

• Attend all post-exam review sessions offered by your professors. Knowing why you selected a wrong answer - and a right answer - can help eliminate future m-s exam mistakes.