Clare Pastore  
**Gould School of Law**

Confidentiality is one of the cornerstones of the duties of an attorney. But why must lawyers keep the secrets of their clients? Should they do so even where others may suffer? What if a client confesses to a crime for which someone else has been charged or convicted? What if the client provides information that could avoid harm to another, but directs the lawyer not to reveal it? Is there ever a time a lawyer should reveal secrets, even if the law or professional conduct rules forbid it? This seminar will explore and analyze the reasons for the legal and ethical rules requiring attorneys to keep the secrets of their clients. Through film and television clips and brief readings, students will examine real-life examples and legal cases to grapple with the rationale for the attorney’s duty of confidentiality, and to explore their own views about the adversary system, the morality of withholding or revealing truth, and what should be the limits, if any, of the duty of confidentiality.