Abstract
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 media 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.

Faculty Biography
As Professor of the Practice of Law, Clare Pastore combines classroom teaching with an advocacy practice in California’s nonprofit legal community. She teaches Civil Procedure, Legal Ethics, Suing the Government, and Poverty Law, among other courses, and works with students on advocacy projects and litigation in the areas of civil and constitutional rights, poverty law, disability rights, and access to justice. She is co-author of the nation's leading Poverty Law textbook. A former staff lawyer at the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the ACLU, Professor Pastore has frequently been recognized for her outstanding advocacy, including by being awarded the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman national teaching award (2103), being selected as a Wasserstein Public Interest Law Fellow by Harvard Law School (2005), and being named one of America’s top 45 public interest lawyers under 45 years old by American Lawyer magazine (1997). She is a graduate of Colgate University and Yale Law School.