Dear Admitted Students,

We look forward to e-meeting you in our mock property classes on Thursday, March 24! In preparation for the mock class, we are providing you the following materials: (1) a case, entitled *Lindh v. Surman*; (2) a query excerpted from Reddit’s AITA thread; and this memo, explaining how you should approach the two readings.

**The case.** Professors use the readings assigned for class to help you to distill relevant legal principles and grasp how they relate to each other. When you read a case for class, you should make sure that you understand:

- the relevant factual background (what happened, that the parties ended up in court?);
- the procedural background (how did the litigation unfold once the case was filed?);
- the arguments each party makes (why should they win, and why should the other side lose?);
- the holding (what the court decided—who wins?);
- the court’s reasoning (why does that side win?); and
- the legal rules the court uses to decide the case.

If there is a dissenting opinion (or opinions) in addition to the opinion of the court, you should note:

- how many justices joined each side (how close was the case?);
- the bases of the dissenting justices’ disagreement with the majority (interpretation of the law? application of the law to the facts of this case?); and
- the policy arguments in favor of (and against) each side.

Look for all of these elements as you read *Lindh v. Surman*. Mark up your copy of the case and/or take notes separately! Don’t rely on your memory alone.

**The Reddit query.** When professors assign non-legal materials, they are often trying to provide important factual background for, or to bring your attention to real-world applications of, the legal rules you’re studying. As you read the Reddit query, think about how the legal rule announced in *Lindh v. Surman* might apply to the poster’s situation. If she came to you for legal advice, what would you tell her and why?

“See” you soon!

Professors Aagaard and Stolzenberg