

Negotiation Teaching Materials

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December 2016

# House-Sitter - Overview

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## Recommended Citation

Hilbert, Jim, "House-Sitter - Overview" (2016). *Negotiation Teaching Materials*. 6.  
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DISPUTE RESOLUTION INSTITUTE  
Teaching Materials  
Simulations

*“House-Sitter”*  
*Introduction to Negotiating and Drafting*

**Overview**

This is an introductory-level transactional scenario focused on negotiating and drafting a short house-sitting agreement. The exercise is designed to introduce all of the major aspects of transactional lawyering: client relationship management, negotiation and drafting (with some revising). The basic premise is straightforward (and a bit whimsical). A homeowner, who owns four cats and a piano, would like to hire a law student to housesit and perform other small tasks (like take care of the cats). The students will play the attorneys for the homeowner and house sitter and negotiate and draft an agreement. Faculty members play the clients (Ortega, the homeowner and Robinson, the house sitter). The scenario is designed for use during class (between two and two and half hours, with breaks and de-brief). *See* Instructor Notes & Background for more details.

**Skills Addressed:** Negotiation, Drafting, Client Counseling

**Target Audience:** Law Students (2Ls and 3Ls)

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**Source:** Dispute Resolution Institute, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

NOTE: These simulation materials are available at no charge to instructors who wish to use the materials for teaching. To access the other related documents for this simulation, please contact [Jim Hilbert](mailto:Jim.Hilbert@open.mitchellhamline.edu). More information is available at [open.mitchellhamline.edu/dri\\_teachingmaterials](https://open.mitchellhamline.edu/dri_teachingmaterials).