

- Morality involves the values that govern a society's attitude toward right and wrong. Ethics attempts to develop the means for determining what those values should be.
- Ethical decisions can be made by relying on opinions and feelings, by applying the greatest good principle and by following the golden rule.
- Ethics tell us what we should do. The law is needed, because people do not always do what they should.
- The law consists of rules of conduct established by the government of a society to maintain stability and justice in that society.
- Today's law comes from five main sources: federal and state constitutions; common law; court decisions; federal, state, and local statutes; and administrative regulations.
- Federal and state constitutions establish the ground rules that other laws must follow.
- Statutory laws are passed by the U.S. congress, state legislatures, city councils or town boards.
- Courts make laws through the common law tradition, by interrupting statutes, and by deciding issues of constitutionality.
- The rules and procedures set up by regulatory agencies are called administrative law.

### Chapter 1 Vocabulary

**Morality** – the values that govern a society's attitude toward right and wrong.

**Ethics** – something which attempts to develop the means for determining what those values (morality) should be.

**Law** – rules of conduct established by the government of a society to maintain stability and justice in that society.

**Common law** – decisions of the early law courts developed in England, based on customs. They are characterized by the practice of deciding cases on precedent.

**Precedent** – when a judge is required to follow an earlier court decision when deciding a case with similar circumstances. Also known as doctrine of stare decisis.

**Statutes** – law specifically passed by a governing body created for that purpose.

**Legislature** – body of lawmakers, which has the job of creating or passing statutory law.

**Unconstitutional** – action of law that is no longer valid

**Administrative Law** – Those rules and procedures established by regulatory agencies.