

# From Attention to Action in an AI Era

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MEVA seva as Reflective Praxis for Justice-Facing Lawyering

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*Presented in personal capacity.*

# *Water the Root, Enjoy the Fruit*

Reflective practice = roots  
Wise action for just outcome = fruit



# The Praxis Gap

## Legal Analysis

- ✓ Sharp analysis & doctrine
- ✓ Issue spotting
- ✓ Persuasive argument
- ✓ Investigation/Evaluation

## Right Action

- Integrity under pressure
- Ethical discernment
- Relational accountability
- Principled action

# MEVA seva

**M**

**MEDITATE**

Mindful pause

**E**

**ELEVATE**

Clarify values

**V**

**VALIDATE**

Viewpoints

**A**

**ACTIVATE**

Bounded next  
step

**S**

**SEVA**

Selfless service

# IRAC → MEVA

## Legal Analysis & Conclusion

### IRAC

Issue · Rule · Application ·  
Conclusion

### CREAC

Conclusion · Rule · Explanation  
· Application · Conclusion



## Wise Actionable Step

**Meditate** Mindful pause

**Elevate** Clarify values

**Validate** Viewpoints

**Activate** Next right step

**Seva** Justice outcome

# Sources of the Framework

**Public Interest  
Lawyering**

**Mentoring & Teaching**

**Governance & Policy  
Advisor**

**Eastern Philosophy  
& Practice**

**Contemplative  
Lawyering**

**Community Organizing**

# Application: Employer Duty of Care

## The Request

- Staff recovering from medical procedure

- 1-2 week delay requested for site visit

## The Tension

- Project timing critical

- Alternatives offered

## What Happened

- Employee traveled

- Health complications followed

*What does the legal framework say— and what reduces harm and preserves system integrity?*

# IRAC Analysis

## Issue

Duty of care violation?

## Rule

Reasonable duty of care standard

## Application

Travel Cleared. Alternative Accommodations. Project Needs.

## Conclusion

No breach of duty of care



MEDITATE

*Mindful Pause*

## Mindful Pause

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Pressure defaults the nervous system to reactivity.

The pause interrupts that cascade.

*Between the stimulus and the response, there is a space. In that space, lies your power to choose. And in that choice, lies your freedom.*

~ Viktor Frankl (Man's Search for Meaning)



**ELEVATE**

*Ethical Discernment*

## Clarify values, duties & professional identity

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What is actually at stake? (Truth-Seeking)

What does my role require — not just permit? (Duty)

What kind of lawyer do I want to be right now? (Non-Harm)



**VALIDATE**

*Viewpoints*

## Relational Attunement — Deep Listening

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Client needs ~ Supervisor's reasoning

Employee's experience

Institution's framework & constraints



## ACTIVATE

*Act Accordingly*

### Intention becomes bounded, specific action

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Who will I speak with — and when?

What will I say and do?

If harm occurs — how will we repair?

# Dualistic to Multidimensional Approach

**Elevate Values**

Reduce Harm ~ Integrity of System

**Validate  
Viewpoints**

Project Finance Timelines ~ Client Needs ~ Other Employees

**Wise Next Step**

Consider Alternative Legal Frameworks ~ Practical Paths

**Justice-Oriented  
Outcome**

Possible Workers Comp Claim ~ Future Accommodation Requests

# Evaluation Rubric

| Criterion                  | Emerging            | Developing           | Proficient           | Advanced                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Awareness<br/>(M)</b>   | Identifies reaction | Notices assumptions  | Self-awareness       | Regulates response                 |
| <b>Discernment<br/>(E)</b> | Identifies issue    | Identifies values    | Weighs duties        | Integrates identity & consequences |
| <b>Perspective<br/>(V)</b> | Lists stakeholders  | Describes viewpoints | Understands tensions | Seeks missing voices               |
| <b>Action<br/>(A/S)</b>    | Suggests action     | Links to values      | Concrete next step   | Justice-oriented accountability    |

**MEVA seva is not a substitute for  
judgment.  
It is a training ground for it.**

In an AI era, that is not a supplement to legal education.  
It is at the center of it.

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