Lecturers Norgaard, Sharma and Corey;

Legal Research and Writing for LLM Students Spring Semester, 2012

## **Course Syllabus**

## Semester Overview:

This semester, we will build on the lessons and skills learned during the fall semester. Specifically, we will continue to master legal analysis and writing as it is practiced in the United States. We will use a fact pattern that involves the legal issues of intentional interference with prospective economic advantage (IIPEA), trade libel and defamation. Your final writing product will be a 15-20 page legal brief that persuasively argues on behalf of the plaintiff, using case law that you find through legal research. You will have the opportunity to turn in two drafts of your brief. It is expected that the final brief will be a polished piece of legal writing that is carefully proofread, contains proper legal citation, incorporates a substantial amount of legal research, and is representative of the quality required to practice law in this country. We will provide you with examples of model briefs and examples of the type of writing that is expected this semester.

## **Grades:**

Students will be graded this semester using the P/H/HH system using the curve required by the law school. The grades will be primarily based on the legal brief, but will also take into account class participation and preparation.

## **Important Dates and Deadlines:**

January 20<sup>th</sup>: Bring in IIPEA case to discuss

January 27<sup>th</sup>: Bring in Trade Libel and defamation cases to discuss

February 3: We will have a two-hour class this week

February 10<sup>th</sup>: Draft of Argument section for IIPEA due

February 17<sup>th</sup>: Draft of entire Argument section due

February 24th- FIRST DRAFT OF BRIEF DUE

Week of March 2nd – required one-on-one conferences

March 30th- FINAL BRIEF DUE

Class Date	Lecture Topic	Assignments/Reading
Class #1 1/13	Overview of Semester; Discuss syllabus, fact pattern; outline of persuasive brief; review hierarchy of courts and CRAC.	Before the first class, read the fact pattern posted on Bspace.
Class #2 1/20	Substantive Lecture: Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage (IIPEA); Persuasive Writing.	Find, read and brief Korea Supply Co. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 29 Cal. 4th 1134, 1164-66 (2003). Be prepared to discuss it in class.
Class #3 1/27	Substantive Lecture: Trade Libel and Defamation.	Find and brief at least one trade libel and one defamation case you plan to use in your brief, brief them, and be prepared to discuss them in class. Read handout on Persuasive Writing.
Class #4/#5 2/3	Library Workshop – conducting research using secondary materials.  TWO HOUR BLOCK: 9-11	Read handout on Secondary Sources.
Class #6 2/10	Peer Review of Argument section on IIPEA; class discussion of research	Write and bring to class two copies of a draft of your Argument section on IIPEA.
Class #7 2/17	Peer review of entire Argument section; Editing and Rewriting workshop.	Write and bring to class two copies of a draft of your entire Argument Section.
Class #8 2/24	Online research	First draft of brief due; Bring Laptops to class.

Class #9 3/2	TBD One-on-one meetings	
Class #10 3/9	First draft of Brief Returned; Discussion of feedback and common mistakes.	TBD
Class #11 3/16	Proper Legal Citation (TA-led discussion)	Read Handout on Common Citation and complete Citation Worksheet; Bring Bluebook to class if you have one.
3/23	No class, spring break	
Class #12	TBD	Final brief Due
3/30		
4/6	No Class	
4/13	No Class	
Class #13	Briefs Returned; Discuss Feedback and Common Mistakes; Course Evaluations	