

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### *First-Year Required Courses*

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#### **Civil Procedure II (LAW 511) (2 Hours)**

This course extends coverage of modern civil procedure in the United States under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The course content includes introduction to Erie, joinder of parties, joinder of claims, discovery, pre- and post-trial motions and appeals.

#### **Contracts II (Law 505) (3 hours)**

This course is designed to introduce students to the law governing contractual obligations. It deals with the formation, terms, performance and breach of contracts. It also deals with the defenses to contractual obligations and the remedies available for the breach of contracts. It further covers the promise-based and reliance-based alternatives to contractual liability.

#### **Criminal Law (LAW 530) (3 hours)**

Criminal law is a required first-year course. The course serves to introduce beginning students to a field in which statutes are the primary authority. Students are provided the opportunity to learn to critically read, interpret, and apply the important statutory provisions regulating the definition of crimes, defenses, and punishments found in modern penal codes. Students are also provided the opportunity to learn of the historical roots and evolution from the common law to modern codes of many of these doctrines. Finally, students are presented with multiple opportunities to hone their critical thinking skills implicated by the doctrines and authority studied in the course. These opportunities include taking and receiving feedback on assessments designed to demonstrate how these criminal law doctrines are tested on the national Multistate Bar Exam.

#### **Lawyering Process II (LAW 930) (2 hours)**

Lawyering Process II is a course designed to teach basic lawyering skills that are critical to being a practicing lawyer. The course focuses on critical reading, writing, legal analysis, research, citation, and professional communication skills. In the spring semester, students learn persuasive writing techniques and practice writing court briefs, professional emails, and client letters. Small class sizes allow for

extensive feedback, and a recursive approach permits students to practice and develop the conventions of legal analysis.

**Property II (LAW 507) (3 Hours)**

An introduction to the law governing real and personal property. Course topics include: what property rights consist of, how they are acquired, and the economic and philosophical basis of property rights; types of interests in land, including landlord and tenant, present and future estates, concurrent ownership, easements, and covenants running with the land; conveyancing of land, including contracts for sale, deeds, recording systems, title insurance, and mortgages; and the regulation of land use through nuisance law and zoning.

**Torts II (Law 509) (3 hours)**

Torts II is a required first-year course in which students examine in depth the following topics: damages; wrongful death and survival; contributory negligence; comparative negligence defense; last clear chance; assumption of risk defense; statutes of limitations and repose; immunities; vicarious liability; strict liability; products liability; nuisance; defamation; invasion of privacy; misrepresentation (optional); and misuse of legal procedure (optional).

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*Second-Year Required Courses*

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**Appellate Litigation (LAW 920) (2 Hours)**

Appellate litigation is an advanced writing course that emphasized the components of an appellate brief, the purpose of each component, and what it takes to make each component persuasive and effective. The course is taught through a combination of lectures, assigned readings, and collaborative and individual research and writing exercises. Students will learn how to strategically frame and express legal issues, in writing and orally, in a way that brings advantage to your client while neutralizing your opponent's best legal arguments.

**Business Associations (LAW 640) (3 Hours)**

This course involves a study of issues arising from the creation, organization, and operation of different business entities, notably general partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations, as well as the principles of agency that underlie them. Topics covered in detail include piercing the corporate veil, shareholder rights, fiduciary duties (including the business judgment rule and the duty of loyalty) and the basics of mergers and acquisitions.

### **Constitution Law II (LAW 513)**

Constitutional Law II is a required course in which students continue their study of the United States Constitution, and basic theories of constitutional law and policy considerations. There will be an in-depth study of the following topics: (1) equal protection (if not covered in Constitutional Law I); (2) First Amendment concepts (freedom of expression and freedom of religion); and (3) state action. If substantive due process is not taught in Constitutional Law I, it will be covered in Constitutional Law II.

### **Criminal Procedure (Law 601)**

This is a required second-year course on the law of police procedure. The primary focus is to understand the limitations imposed on police conduct by the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Topics include searches, seizures, doctrine of incorporation, interrogation, Miranda warnings, and the Exclusionary Rule. Skills emphasized include identifying the major pre-trial steps in the processing of a criminal case, drafting legal documents, and applying the constitutional guarantees stemming from the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Other topics that may be covered include: right to counsel, juries and jury selection, preliminary hearings, grand jury hearings, double jeopardy, sentencing, and post-conviction remedies.

### **Professional Responsibility (LAW 620)**

This course is about the law of lawyering. It focuses on the ethics that regulate a lawyer's conduct in the practical setting, as well as the ethics that govern the conduct of judges. Among the topics covered are: professional identity, discipline, candor, clients, fees, fiduciary duty, advocacy, and advertising and solicitation. The course also aims to prepare students for the MPRE.

### **Trial Simulation (Law 514 & 515)**

Trial Simulation is a practical skill, experiential education course that teaches students effective and persuasive legal communication skills. Students learn how to operate under pressure, while performing all basic phases of a typical trial, including jury selection, opening statements, direct examination, cross examination, techniques for introducing evidence, closing argument, etc. Emphasis will be on actual performance of mock problems in a true courtroom setting. This course offers 4 hours of experiential education course credit—2 hours of a Trial Practice lecture and 2 hours of a Trial Practicum. Must enroll in both courses.

### **Wills, Trusts and Estates LAW 650 (4 Hours)**

Wills, Trusts and Estates is an introductory course designed to expose law students to the fundamentals of succession planning by learning the laws governing the

creation, execution, and administration of wills and trusts, modification and revocation of wills, challenges to admissibility of wills to probate, intestate succession distribution where decedents die without a will, and drafting skills to mitigate succession disputes. The trusts *component* of the course places emphasis on the characteristics, creation, modification of trusts, including, planning for incapacity, fiduciary, administration, and supervision issues.

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### *Second or Third Year Required Course*

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#### **Commercial Law (LAW 510, Secs. 1 & 2) (4 Hours)**

This course covers various provisions of Articles 2 and 9 of the UCC. This course's coverage of Article 2 of the UCC will focus on the four provisions of Article 2 that substantially differ from common law of contracts: (i) UCC § 2-207 (the "Battle of the Forms" provision); (ii) UCC § 2-205 (the "Merchants Firm Offer"); (iii) UCC § 2-209 (the "Good Faith Modification"); and (iv) UCC § 2-209 (the "Perfect Tender Rule"). This portion of the course will also cover Warranties. This course's coverage of UCC Article 9 will focus on the following core areas of Article 9: (i) Scope of Article 9; (ii) Classification of Collateral; (iii) Attachment; (iv) Perfection; (v) Priority; and (vi) Default.

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### *Second- or Third-Year Electives*

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#### **Appeals in Immigration Law (LL.M Course Open to JD (2 Hours)**

This course covers the nuts and bolts of how to appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals, standards of review, brief writing tips, and motions to the Board. After taking this course, you will understand the basics of BIA appeals and understand the standard and burden of proof.

#### **Bankruptcy (LAW 715) (3 Hours)**

This course will provide a comprehensive survey of basic bankruptcy law with emphasis on the structure and the process of business reorganization Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Discussion will focus on the basic elements of liquidations and reorganizations, as well as contemporary issues of interest and importance. Significant portions of this course will be devoted to examining the use of reorganization laws to solve a variety of corporate ills from product liability disasters to labor difficulties and over-leveraging. Consideration will also be given to some of the grand issues of bankruptcy including issues that arise as a result of

the impact insolvent enterprises may have on competitors and the essential interplay between bankruptcy and other substantive bodies of law. In addition, some time will be devoted to discussion of the current debate over bankruptcy reform.

### **Civil Rights (LAW 747) (3 Hours)**

Civil and political rights are a class of rights that protect individuals' freedom from infringement by governments, social organizations, and private individuals. They ensure one's entitlement to participate in the civil and political life of society and the state without discrimination or repression.

### **Construction Law (Law 805, Sec. 2) (3 Hours)**

This course will emphasize the practical aspects of construction law, including discussion of contraction contracts, Texas lien laws and construction disputes and resolution.

### **Copyright Law (Law 769) (3 Hours)**

This is a 3-credit-hour course covering United States copyright law. Students will examine both the fundamental and more advanced concepts and principles of this body of law, primarily through the study of federal statutes and appellate court opinions. Included in this study is a look at the underlying social policy considerations, as well as the doctrinal conflicts that have arisen between copyright law principles and principles in other areas, most notably, the freedom of expression. Students will be expected to gain fundamental knowledge of the substance and function of copyright law and to demonstrate proficiency in problem-solving in areas addressed in the course. In so doing, students will apply skills in statutory construction, analysis and synthesis. They will evaluate legislative intent and judicial reasoning and be prompted to address and resolve issues of justice, policy, process and fact, utilizing principles of sound legal reasoning.

### **Death Penalty (3 Hours)**

This course examines the specific legal issues inherent in capital punishment within the general area of criminal law and procedure. There will be extensive coverage of both substantive and procedural law. Specifically, the course will cover landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases, and examine the Court's interpretation and application of the Constitution, particularly the Eighth Amendment, to regulate the use of capital punishment in the United States. As the Court's interpretation raises interrelated questions of substance and process, the course will also explore philosophical questions and consider the impact of many factors such as racism, poverty, and shoddy lawyering on capital punishment. In addition, the course will examine many aspects of death penalty litigation such as jury selection, the role of

the prosecutor, defendant and defense counsel, the penalty hearing, and the process of habeas corpus.

**Entertainment Law (Focus on TV and Film) (LAW 791 01) (3 Hours)**

This is a topical course on entertainment law. The course will provide an overview of the dynamic field of entertainment law with a focus on television and film and afford in depth understanding of the negotiation, drafting and litigation issues that arise in entertainment law.

**Environmental Law (LAW 736) (3 Hours)**

An overview of how the environmental law process works. The course focuses primarily on federal law, in particular the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, and statutes regulating hazardous wastes. The course examines the role of and interaction among the various participants in the regulatory process: the legislature, administrative agencies, the judiciary and the public.

**Estate Planning (LAW 882) (2 Hours)**

In this course, students will apply the principles learned in Wills & Trusts by working through a variety of estate planning techniques. Students will plan an estate and prepare the documentation to implement that plan. Basic knowledge of taxation of income and estates can be very useful to an estate planner. The course covers aspects of both. Many clients are interested in lifetime planning beyond their estates. As such, the course surveys how to use effectively the following estate planning tools: insurance, income tax, and investments.

**Federal Income Taxation of Individuals (LAW 740, Sec. 01) (3 Hours)**

Federal income taxation of individuals is a basic tax course designed to introduce law students to, and provide law students with, a general understanding of the fundamental principles governing the federal income taxation of individuals. Topics covered in the course include, but are not limited to, (1) the scope of gross income, including income without receipt of cash; (2) the exclusion of gifts and inheritances; (3) the tax consequences of bequests, devises and inheritances; (4) the application of rules governing the taxation of employee benefits and the exclusion from gross income of certain fringe benefits; (5) application of the rules governing the exclusion of meals and lodging; (6) taxation of prizes and awards, including scholarships and fellowships; (7) tax consequences of gains from dealings in property; (8) computation of basis, amount realized, and gain realized; (9) the application of the principles of Crane v. Commissioner & Commissioner v. Tufts; (10) application of the tax rules governing property acquired between spouses incident to divorce; (11) tax consequences of property acquired from a decedent; (12)

taxation of life insurance proceeds and annuities; (13) tax consequences of discharge of indebtedness; (14) taxation of recoveries from personal injuries; (15) taxation of separation and divorce payments, including alimony and separate maintenance payments; (16) tax consequences of gains from the sale of principal residence; and (17) assignment of income doctrine.

### **Health Law (LAW 787) (3 Hours)**

This course provides a general introduction to the law of health care in the U.S., focusing on the legal and policy considerations that influence government and commercial managed care, hospital operation, and physician/provider-patient relationships. Students will also learn the interplay of regulatory and transactional practices that affect clinical trials, informed consent, privacy, medical malpractice, and end-of-life decision-making.

### **Intellectual Property (LAW 854) (3 Hours)**

This is an introductory survey course designed to cover the basic principles of copyright, patent and trademark law in the United States. The course entails critical reading, interpretation and discussion of federal statutes and relevant court cases. Expected outcomes include enhanced analytical and problem-solving skills applicable not only to intellectual property but to statutory and decisional law in general. In addition, this course is designed to prepare students for more advanced courses in patent, copyright and trademark law.

### **International Human Rights (LAW 762) (LL.M Course Open to J.D.) (3 Hours)**

This course serves as an introduction to the law, theory and practice of international human rights, together with the instruments, organizations and arrangements that affect their implementation and enforcement. The course will cover the development and implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two International Covenants on Human Rights and the various regional and subject-specific human rights instruments in the contemporary international system.

### **Music Entertainment Contracts (LAW 985) (3 Hours)**

We will accomplish two goals, namely, presenting an overview of the dynamic field of music law, while at the same time providing an in-depth understanding of the particular music contracts. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, an introduction to the music industry, publisher agreements, representing artists, production agreements, artist recording agreements, accountability under recording contracts, record distribution agreements, songwriters and producers, performing rights societies and copyright enforcement, promotion of recording artist, performance, merchandising and touring agreements, film & television music and music in cyberspace.

### **Oil and Gas (Sec. 721) (3 Hours)**

This course focuses on the basic legal rules and principles governing the ownership and development of oil and gas. Its central objective is a comprehensive presentation and understanding of the substantive law of oil and gas in Texas and beyond. A substantial portion of class time will be devoted to determining title to the resource, examining conveyancing issues, and exploring the interpretation, operation, and drafting of the basic development contract: the oil and gas lease. We will also consider secondary contracts used in the upstream sector of the oil and gas industry, including joint operating agreements, farmout agreements and drilling contracts, among others. Developments in the international oil and gas industry may also be examined.

### **Public Education Law (LAW 758, Sec. 1) (3 Hours)**

This course examines federal and state school law for educational leaders addressing legal issues that impact the operation of public schools.

### **Public International Law (LAW 760) (3 Hours)**

This course will provide students with a global understanding of the rules governing international relations. It could cover relations between States on a variety of topics, ranging from environmental concerns, human rights, to war. The course may explore legal and institutional concepts on rules that international lawyers rely upon when advising governments.

### **Sports Law (LAW 789) (3 Hours)**

This Course will explain the intricacies of the business of sports in the United States and internationally. It will cover topics both in amateur and professional sports, including antitrust, contracts, eligibility, torts, workers compensation, NCAA, constitutional implications, civil rights, women in sports, international law, and intellectual property.

### **Water Law (LAW 805) (3 Hours)**

This course will discuss laws dealing with the ownership, control, and use of water as a resource. It will cover a variety of federal, state and local laws that govern water rights.

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*Third-Year Required Courses*

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**Domestic Relations (Family Law) (LAW 725) (3 Hours)**

Domestic Relations is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of major family law issues from the perspectives of the law, practitioners, and observers. The course will provide students with a basic understanding of how family law has developed and the fundamental concepts of family law. The course will focus on the legal aspects of family relationships: marriage, divorce, division of marital property, adoption, custody, termination of parental rights, extended families, domestic violence, procreation and other issues relating to marriage and family, with emphasis on the Texas Family Code.

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*Bar Study Electives*

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**Advanced Bar Review (LAW 982) (3 Hours)**

The Advanced Bar Review (ABR) is a refresher course designed to provide third-year law students with an intensive substantive review of select topics that are frequently tested on the MBE portion of the Multistate Bar Examination.

Currently, the scope of the course encompasses the seven subject areas tested on the MBE portion of the bar examination, namely: (1) Criminal Law, (2) Torts, (3) Evidence, (4) Real Property, (5) Constitutional Law, (6) Federal Civil Procedure, and (7) Contracts.

At the conclusion of this course, all students are expected to have acquired a clear understanding of the specific subject matter modules taught, possess the requisite analytical skills for deconstructing MBE questions, and be able to answer medium to complex MBE questions at a minimum raw pass rate of 65%.

**Conflicts of Law (Law 700) (3 Hours)**

The Conflict of Laws course, usually referred to simply as “Conflicts,” is an overview of the methodologies adopted by the courts in various state and federal jurisdictions for accommodating and applying legal principles from other jurisdictions. The course orients students to the doctrinal theories, analyzes hypotheticals to illustrate how a conflicts theory arises, and examines opinions in which courts introduce the

nuances and complexities in applying conflicts doctrines. Among the conflicts approaches reviewed are the traditional, the First Restatement, the Second Restatement, *lex fori*, local law, foreign law, domiciliary, depechage, characterization, public policy, and interest. Personal and general jurisdiction are covered.

**Multistate Performance Test (“MPT”) (LAW 990) (2 Hours)**

LAW 990 is a skills-based course, where students will learn the skills necessary to perform well on the Multistate Performance Test component of the bar exam. Students will write 7 MPTs for a grade in the course. The tests will be administered under timed, simulated test conditions. Other class sessions will be focused on skills instruction, analysis of previous MPTs, in class activities, group work, and other exercises designed to develop to skills to succeed on the MPT portion of the bar exam.

**Sem: Bar Essay Writing (LAW 809) (2 Hours)**

This course will teach students how to answer bar essay questions. Students will be familiarized with the rules frequently tested by the examiners and the essential components of a high scoring answer. Students will gain experience writing answers to actual bar essay questions and receive personalized feedback on essays, with instruction on how to improve their answers. This course is designed for students preparing to sit for the Texas Bar Examination, but it is not intended as a substitute for a commercial bar review course. Students should take this course during the semester immediately preceding graduation from law school.

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*Courses that Satisfy Upper-Level Writing Requirement*

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**Sem: Current Issues in Trademark Law (Law 805, Sec. 3) (2 Hours)**

The course, which satisfies the law school’s writing requirement, is designed to introduce students to contemporary issues in trademark law. Topics to be discussed include predatory trademark registration, social media and the enforceability of trademarks, compensation for publicity rights of college athletes, social justice implications of trademark law and policy, offensive marks in an era of hostile discourse, and the balancing of first amendment considerations. Students are expected to research these or other similar topics, from which to develop and submit a scholarly paper equivalent in quality and scope to a law review article.

**Sem: Human Rights and Social Responsibility (LAW 844) (3 Hours)**

This course will provide you with an overview of the core concepts of corporate social responsibility, human rights due diligence and understand the most significant national legal regulations which have global impact in driving corporate action in the supply chain.

**Sem: Jurisprudence (LAW 845) (2 Hours)**

The course will examine a variety of historically influential responses to basic questions concerning the nature and legitimacy of law and the difference (if any) between law and morality. Reading will include works by legal positivist, natural lawyers, and legal realists.

**Sem: Juvenile Law (LAW 726) (2 Hours)**

This course is a seminar that explores various topics currently impacting our youth and the ways in which the law does or does not address them. Students will be able to explore relevant and timely topics that interest them. The primary goal of the course is to steward students through the process of research development and final thesis paper completion while also familiarizing them with fundamental juvenile law concepts. Class discussions and student presentations will aid in this process. If you have already taken the Juvenile Law course in the Fall that does not satisfy the writing requirement, you may not enroll in this course.

**Sem: The Law and Artificial Intelligence (LAW 805, Sec. 4) (3 Hours)**

Artificial intelligence is improving the way we live, learn, work, and play, revolutionizing society through intelligent systems. Its influence can be subtle, like customer service interactions with chatbots, or profound, like autonomous vehicles replacing truck drivers. This course will explore the impact of artificial intelligence on key aspects of the legal landscape, including criminal justice, torts, commerce, and national security. We will also focus briefly on how AI is transforming the practice of law.

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*Second- or Third-Year Experiential Learning Courses*

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**Alternate Dispute Resolution (LAW 8306) (3 Hours)**

**Law Practice Management (Law 924) (3 Hours)**

This course provides a practical view of how to start, operate, and manage a law practice. This is an experiential education course. Upon successful completion of the

course, students will earn 3 hours of Experiential Education credits. Topics explored in the course include understanding practice fundamentals, law practice as a business, financial management, timekeeping, billing, trust accounts, marketing plans, client management, and common ethical issues.

### **Mediation (Law 703) (2 Hours)**

This course offers best practices in how to resolve conflicts between parties without the divisive methods and expense associated with litigation. The class is taught as a simulation, giving students dedicated and repeated practice opportunities in the development of each skill. Each student is immersed in the mediation process from start to finish. Upon successful completion of the course, each student will receive 2 hours of Experiential Education course credit and their Basic Mediation Certification, equipping them to serve as independent, certified mediators in civil actions.

### **Mergers and Acquisitions (LAW 771) (3 Hours)**

This course is taught as a simulation course; it offers 3 hours of Experiential Education Credit. M&A focuses on the design, analysis, and implementation of financial strategies aimed at repositioning and revitalizing companies faced with major competitive or environmental challenges. In addition, M &A explores the incentives for using mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and alliances as vehicles to achieve corporate strategic objectives.

Prerequisites: Business Associations.

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## ***Third-Year Experiential Learning Courses***

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### **CLINICS**

#### **Administration Immigration Law Trial Practice (932, Sec. 4) (2 Hours) (Nguyen)**

This course is designed to provide instruction to upper-level students in the substantive areas of trial practice and immigration law. Students will develop a working knowledge of immigration law by engaging in the following activities: drafting of immigration pleadings and forms, pre-trial motion practice, plea negotiations, and courtroom presentation. The course assists in developing skills in the areas of client interviewing, investigative techniques, oral and trial advocacy. Students may be presented with an opportunity to conduct a trial before an administrative tribunal. Through course readings, lectures and discussions, students will acquire the tools and insights necessary to represent their clients effectively and gain a working knowledge of various parts of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as well as various aspects of applicable evidentiary and procedural rules. This course

must be taken concurrently with the Administrative Law Clinic--Immigration (LAW 922, Sec. 1).

**Administration Immigration Law Clinic (LAW 922, Sec. 1) (4 Hours) (Nguyen)**

This course is a practicum designed to provide training and instruction to upper-level students in the substantive areas of trial practice and immigration law. Student attorneys in this course will be able to demonstrate competency in representing clients in administrative hearings before immigration administrative tribunals, and in handling applications for permanent residence, citizenship, asylum, and special immigrant juvenile status. Students will develop a working knowledge of various parts of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and any applicable evidentiary and procedural rules. This course must be taken concurrently with the Administrative Trial Practice course— (LAW 932, Sec. 4).

**Civil Family Law Clinic (LAW 935, Sec. 1) (4 Hours) (Harmon)**

This course is a practicum designed to provide training and instruction to upper-level students in the legal representation of clients in the area of family law. Student attorneys completing this course will be able to demonstrate competency in assisting clients with divorce, spousal maintenance, division of assets and liabilities, child support, paternity, and name changes. Students will also develop a working knowledge of the Texas Rules of Evidence, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and relevant provisions of the Texas Family Law Code. This clinic must be taken concurrently with the Civil Trial Practice—Family Law course (LAW 932, Sec. 3).

**Civil Trial Practice—Family Law (LAW 932, Sec. 3) (2 Hours) (Harmon)**

This course is designed to provide instruction to upper-level students in the substantive areas of trial practice and family law. This course will explore legal issues relating to the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of family relationships. These issues include marriage formations; legal and economic consequences of marriage and divorce; parentage, custody, and support of children; and the processes for resolving family disputes. Students will develop a working knowledge of the Texas Rules of Evidence, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and relevant provisions of the Texas Family Law Code. This course must be taken concurrently with the Civil Law—Family Law Clinic (Law 935).

**Civil Law Clinic—Wills and Probate LAW 935, Sec. 1 (4 Hours) (Cartwright)**

This course is a practicum designed to provide training and instruction to upper-level students in the delivery of legal services to clients in the area(s) of estate planning, probate, guardianship, and estate administration. Student attorneys completing this course will be able to demonstrate competency in preparing estate planning documents, in addition to handling probate and guardianship matters from initial

interview to court proceedings. Students will develop a working knowledge of the Texas Rules of Evidence, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and relevant provisions of the Texas Estate Code. This clinic must be taken concurrently with the Civil Trial Practice—Wills, Probate, & Guardianship course (Law 932, Sec. 5).

**Civil Law Trial Practice—Wills and Probate (LAW 932, Sec. 1) (2 Hours) (Cartwright)**

This course is designed to provide instruction to upper-level students in the substantive areas of trial practice, estate planning, probate, guardianship and estate administration. Students will develop a working knowledge of the Texas Rules of Evidence, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and relevant provisions of the Texas Estate Code. This course must be taken concurrently with the Civil Law Clinic—Wills, Probate, & Guardianship Clinic (Law 935).

**Criminal Defense and Title IX Clinic (LAW 960, Sec. 1) (4 Hours) (Johnson)**

This course is a practicum designed to provide training and instruction to upper-level students to handle all legal aspects of a misdemeanor case from arraignment to fact investigation to trial. Student attorneys completing this course will be able to demonstrate competency in representing clients in trial advocacy, crime scene investigation, witness interviewing, plea negotiations, working with experts, suppression motions, and other types of pleadings. Students will be exposed to a wide range of cases such as assaults, thefts, driving while intoxicated, and drug possession. Students will develop a working knowledge of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas Rules of Evidence, and relevant provisions of the Texas Penal Code. Students will handle Title IX cases dealing with sexual harassment. This course must be taken concurrently with the Criminal Trial Practice for Criminal Defense and Title IX Clinic (Law 960, Sec. 1).

**Criminal Trial Practice for Criminal Defense and Title IX Clinic (LAW 902, Sec. 2) (2 Hours)**

This course is designed to provide instruction to upper-level students in the substantive areas of trial practice and criminal misdemeanor law. Students will develop competency in representing a client from arrest to resolution of his/her case, and all things in-between. Students will also develop a working knowledge of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas Rules of Evidence, and relevant provisions of the Texas Penal Code. This course must be taken concurrently with the Criminal Defense and Title IX Clinic (Law 960, Sec. 1).

**Innocence Clinic (Law 823 and 822) (4 Hours)**

The Innocence Project at TMLS is focused on securing the release of defendants who were wrongfully convicted; these are cases of “actual innocence”. Students enrolled in this program perform critical factual investigations, conduct witness interviews,

evaluate claims for post-conviction litigation, and assist with post-conviction litigation. Students enrolled in this course will receive 2 hours of Experiential Education Credit, in addition to 2 hours of Experiential Education Credit for the mandatory classroom component that accompanies the practical skills component.

## **EXTERNSHIPS**

### **Civil Law Externship (LAW 908 & 932) (6 Hours)**

Students enrolled this program will earn 4 hours of Experiential Education course credit upon successful completion of their legal placements. Students benefit from direct exposure to the practice of law as performed by attorneys and other legal professionals and paraprofessionals in legal environments. Students use focused application of legal doctrine to resolve real conflicts. Students represent live clients and may also have the opportunity to apply for their student-attorney bar cards.

Each Civil Externship student is also required to enroll in the Civil Externship Civil Externship Classroom component (Law 932), which offers an additional 2 hours of Experiential Education course credit. This classroom component covers topics including ethical issues relating to externships; economic, social, and moral issues in the legal profession; workplace skills; and discussion of field experiences. Be sure to enroll in both the Trial Practice (Lecture) and Externship components.

### **Judicial Externship (Law 909 & 932) (6 Hours)**

Students enrolled in the Judicial Externship program will earn 4 hours of Experiential Education course credit upon successful completion of their placement with either a sitting Federal Justice, State Court Judge, or Administrative Law Judge. Students who participate in the Judicial Externship program will experience direct exposure to the skills and methods of judicial practice. Students will be given multiple opportunities to conduct legal research and provide drafts of legal writings that are used to serve as the basis of future legal opinions.

Each Judicial Externship student is also required to enroll in the Civil Externship Civil Externship Classroom component (Law 932), which offers an additional 2 hours of Experiential Education course credit. This classroom component also covers topics including ethical issues relating to externships; economic, social, and moral issues in the legal profession; workplace skills; and discussion of field experiences.

### **Criminal Externship (Law 907 & 902) (6 Hours)**

Students enrolled in the Criminal Law Externship program will earn 4 hours of Experiential Education course credit upon successful completion of their placement with either the United States Attorney's Office; a State, County or Federal prosecutor's office; a State, County or Federal public defender's office; or a private criminal defense law firm. Students participate in criminal prosecution, criminal

law litigation, conduct client interviews, participate in fact investigation inquiries, prepare pretrial motions, and engage in trial preparation and litigation. Students enrolled in this externship may have the opportunity to apply for their student-attorney bar cards from the State Bar of Texas.

In addition to the field work provided by the externship placement for the fall and spring semesters, each Criminal Externship student is also required to enroll in the Criminal Externship Classroom component (Law 902), which offers an additional 2 hours of Experiential Education course credit.

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*Special Activities Credit*

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**Law Review (LAW 796) (2 Hours)**

Third-year students who have participated in law review for at least three (3) semesters may enroll in and receive credit for this course. Students enrolled in the course are responsible for the entire production of the law journal. Their responsibilities include editing articles for publication, and writing and editing notes and comments.

**Moot Court (Law 901) (2 Hours)**

With a balanced focus on legal research and writing, coupled with detailed oral advocacy skill development, this course helps students improve their research and writing skills while also preparing them for competitive Moot Court Competitions. As practice, students draft Amicus briefs for local non-profit organizations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will earn 2 hours of Experiential Education credit.

**Mock Trial (Law 828) (2 hours)**

Mock Trial, Law 828 incorporates best practices to train students in the use of critical legal reasoning, persuasive oral advocacy, and strategic storytelling. This course also covers the mechanics of interscholastic trial advocacy competitions. Topics in the course include development of case theory, effective advocacy skills, appropriate professional conduct, and trial preparation. Upon successful completion of this course students will earn 2 hours of Experiential Education credit.

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