

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Summer 2024

Billion Dollar Law Practice, LAW 804, Sec. 3 (2 Hours)

This elective course will focus on how to handle complex Torts litigation—a billion-dollar law industry. Complex Torts litigation usually involves class action lawsuits involving product liability, toxic, or mass tort litigation. The prerequisites for this course are Torts I, Torts I, Civil Procedure I and Civil Procedure II.

Business Planning, LAW 871, Sec. 1 (2 Hours)

This course is designed to expose students to the advising of small business enterprises. Understanding the various planning and counseling techniques is the primary objective of the course. As a first step, the course will outline the various types of business enterprises and present the student with general considerations for choosing between a corporation and a partnership. These considerations include business, financial, tax, and other factors. Further, the tax factors are given in-depth treatment. Second, the course will consider the issues of enterprise valuation, allocation of managerial control, design of the capital structure, and the tax incidents of a proposed corporation within the context of a business problem. Third, the course will focus on the business planning associated with the continuing enterprise. The issues in this area include issuing new securities, stock dividend distributions, revaluation of assets, reduction of capital to create surplus, and the attendant tax aspects of the continuing enterprise. Finally, the course will consider the corporate and tax aspects incidental to the dissolution of a corporation. This problem will explore the various methods by which a corporation may be dissolved, the rights of creditors, the recognition and non-recognition of income, and the tax incidents to the shareholders of the liquidated corporation.

Civil Externship, LAW 908 (4 Hours)

This externship is designed to introduce the student to two practical civil law applications: to walk through the anatomy of a civil lawsuit in the classroom component; and to place the student with a county, state, or federal agency to work as an intern and learn from observation and experience. The placement component will allow the student to observe and participate in the activities in a legal environment. These activities may include writing legal briefs, drafting motions, interviewing clients, and conducting legal arguments in court. The student is required to work at the placement site twenty (20) hours per week during the semester under the supervision of the attorney of the agency environment. Prior approval is necessary by Professor Brandon Draper, the Director of Externships.

Civil Externship Trial Practice, LAW 932 (2 Hours)

This is the lecture or classroom component for the Civil Externship. You must enroll in this course if you are enrolled in Civil Externship, LAW 908. The classroom component will introduce simulated interviewing, motion practice and filing, deposition and interrogatory

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drafting, simulated pre-trial procedures, and role-playing on picking a jury while following a Texas lawsuit from its inception to the beginning of a jury trial. This course is online.

Criminal Externship, LAW 907 (4 Hours)

This externship is designed to introduce the student to two practical criminal law applications: to walk through the anatomy of a criminal charge utilizing the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; and to place the student in the District Attorney's Office to work as an intern with criminal prosecutors. The student will experience and see arrest warrants, indictments and complaints, tangible evidence, participate in simulated pre-trial arguments, hearings and negotiation pleas. The placement component will pair the student with an Assistant District Attorney to be trained in the art of prosecutorial advocacy. The student is required to work at the placement site twenty (20) hours per week during the semester. The student will be exposed to extensive criminal litigation and may actually perform voir dire, opening statements, cross examination, direct examination, or closing statements in a trial. A clean record is required.

Criminal Externship Trial Practice, LAW 902 (2 Hours)

This is the lecture component for the Criminal Externship. You must enroll in this course if you are enrolled in Criminal Externship, LAW 907. The classroom component to the Criminal Externship will introduce the student to the practical application of Texas Criminal Procedure from the arrest to disposition of a case. This course is online.

Employment Discrimination: Title VII, LAW 759 (3 Hours)

This course focuses on federal laws prohibiting discrimination in employment based upon race, sex, age, national origin, and handicap. The course is an introductory employment discrimination law course. It will also cover topics such as pregnancy discrimination, sexual orientation discrimination, age discrimination, and disability discrimination.

Family Law Seminar LAW 805 (3 Hours)

This seminar will cover family law topics including marriage, divorce, annulment, child custody, support, adoption, paternity, abortion, termination of parental rights, and conflicts of laws as it relates to the aforementioned. This course will examine federal and state laws concerning familial relationships and their justification. This course primarily focuses on legal familial relations between adults including restrictions on who may marry, alternatives to marriage, spousal privileges, and the dissolution of marriage. **This course satisfies the upper level requirement.**

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Financial Accounting for Lawyers LAW 895 (3 Hours)

Financial accounting for lawyers is an introductory course designed to provide law students with a fundamental understanding of basic financial accounting principles, collection and measurement of accounting information, preparation and interpretation of the basic financial statements—such as the income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statements, statement of changes in owners’ equity—and the use of these accounting information in making decisions in every day law practice, regardless of the area of legal specialization.

Gender and the Law Seminar, LAW 788 (3 Hours)

This course will examine gender as it relates to the law. Different aspects of the law are discussed. The class will read theoretical accounts, empirical studies, ethnographies, and legal cases to obtain an understanding of the mechanisms through which work becomes gendered. In this course, you will be drafting pleadings, motions, and other court documents. This course will be taught as a drafting course focusing on gender issues.

Independent Research I/II LAW 802/803 (3 Hours)

Second and third-year students may elect to take three hours of credit for independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. The scope and subject matter of the research project will be determined by the teacher supervising the student. The course may only be taken one time. Registration is by application and permission only. Students must submit an approved application and outline at registration. The form is available in the Office of Student Services.

Mock Trial, LAW 828 (2 hours)

The Mock Trial course is an introductory look into the intricacies of competitive mock trial. The course combines principles from Evidence and Trial Simulation courses, with advocacy nuisances commonly associated with scholastic competitions. In the summer only, this course is open to rising second-year law students, in addition to third-year law students.

Moot Court LAW 901 (2 Hours)

In this course, students will be able to participate in the law school’s moot court program, prepare briefs for competitions, and make oral arguments. These significant responsibilities, in part, justify the credit given in this course. In the summer only, this course is open to rising second-year law students, in addition to third-year law students.

Seminar: Law and Artificial Intelligence, LAW 805, Sec. 3 (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. This course, which is asynchronous, will also focus on how AI is transforming the practice of law.

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Seminar in Taxation: Tax Controversies, LAW 880 (2 Hours)

This course is an in-depth study of current topics in the federal taxation system. Emphasis will be placed on recent legislative, administrative, or course developments.

Sports Law Seminar, LAW 805, Sec. 2 (3 Hours)

This course examines the legal relationships arising out of professional and amateur athletics. Subjects covered include antitrust aspects of sports activities, taxation of sports activities, liability for injuries in sports activities and labor aspects. **This course meets the upper level writing requirement.**