

**CIVIL TRIAL PRACTICE SYLLABUS
Law 701**

**Fall Semester 2019
8/19/2019**

Judge Manuel D. Leal

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Office Hours: M/W

1:00 – 5:00

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STUDENT RULES AND REGULATIONS 2019-2020

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of the *law school rules and regulations*. You may access the Rules and Regulations Handbook at our TMSL website, www.tsulaw.edu. Click *Students*. Click *Student Rules and Regulations 2019-2020*.

<http://www.tsulaw.edu/life/20162017RulesRegulations.pdf#view=Fit>

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE

Placing law students in actual civil trials with experienced practicing attorneys for a semester is an important objective that a law school and professor with experience can offer through this course. The objective has law students concentrating on actual trial practice, while also requiring them to consider the various policy choices made by practicing lawyers and law courts. If students understand the fundamentals of trial practice, they should be prepared to research the complications that will come up in their future practice of law. But if key basic concepts evade them in their practice of law they will be lost from the beginning and cause possible injury to the clients.

It is absolutely essential in analyzing civil trial law to start by identifying basic first principles in the existing social, economic and legal world in order to identify precisely what their civil trial law should encompass.

The usual normative view of civil law practice is whether the attorney is qualified and capable of representing their particular client. This is tested against all possible laws through *critical legal thinking* of a variety of legal and factual issues that may arise in a real-life situation. Failure to take into account basic fundamental principles when selecting a statute or rule of law is a very serious and risky gamble.

This approach is not unique. In fields as disparate and complex as antitrust, oil and gas, intellectual property, and corporate finance, analysis of discrete legal problems should begin with a look at the theoretical framework that the law is built upon. This approach is very unique in areas such as bankruptcy law, family law, etc.

GRADING

As permitted by the law school's regulations a student's grade will be a composite of class room performance, practicing attorney's evaluations and any exam scheduled by the law school. Please refer to the Law School's *Grading System* published in *Student Rules and Regulations*, SCHOLARSHIP, Section 3.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require special accommodations, please make arrangement with the Dean's office. Your application and documentation will remain confidential. Your prompt attention will allow the law school to accommodate you as soon as it has been made aware of your situation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Serious participation with this program is a critically important and an essential component of the course. Thus, each student must be prepared to discuss the doctrines, theories, logic and propositions of law presented in the assigned cases.