NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The information contained in this syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please notify Associate Dean Rafael Gely as soon as possible.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a notetaker), students must also register with The Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, disabilitycenter@missouri.edu. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements.

For other MU resources for students with disabilities, see http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu.

Advanced Legal Research (Law 5320)
Fall 2017, 2 Credits
Friday 9:00 – 10:40, Room 3
Professor Randy Diamond, diamondrj@missouri.edu, Room 224 Law Library

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- develop proficiency in identifying and finding legal authorities in litigation and transactional matters routinely assigned to newer attorneys;
- become familiar with conducting factual, investigative, and other non-legal research in litigation and transactional matters routinely assigned to newer attorneys;
- conduct increasingly complex legal, factual, and investigative research in a specialized practice area or on a substantial legal issue;
- develop knowledge as legal research consumers in choosing among various research products for different research needs;
- improve their ability to compile, analyze, synthesize, and report research at a competency level hiring attorneys expect from newer attorneys and judges expect from judicial clerks

Assessment: formative and summative
Standard 303 compliant (simulation/law clinic/field placement)? No

Assignments and Grading:
Research Guide and Related Research Assignments: 60%
In-Class Research/Homework: 20%
Research Guide Presentation: 15%
Participation and Professionalism: 5%
Course Materials
There is no textbook. There is a TWEN course page w/course info and materials.

Attendance
Regular attendance is required and expected. I will take attendance every class. A student who misses more than three classes will have his or her final grade reduced.

Consistent and thoughtful class participation is expected. Successful class participation encompasses participating in discussions, asking questions, being an active listener, and paying attention to the comments of others. Quality, not quantity, of comments and questions count most, as will contributions to a positive, attentive, and engaged learning environment, including respect for others and opposing points of view.

Class Meetings
Lectures, demos, discussions, and in-class assignments.

Office Meeting w/Professor (to be scheduled: Sep 25 – Oct 5)
To discuss research guide project and assign related research.

Week 1 – August 25

- Course Objectives and Assignments
- See Course Bulletin Board for pre-class assignment due August 23rd, 5pm
- Panel – past ALR students discuss their summer research experience and employer expectations

Week 2 – Sept 1

- LibGuide training (Cindy Bassett, Electronic Services Librarian)
- Westlaw advanced resources and searching
- Google for Lawyers

Week 3 – Sept 8

- Bloomberg Law advanced resources and searching
- Fastcase https://www.fastcase.com/bar_associations/missouri/

Week 4 – Sept 15

- Lexis Advance advanced resources and searching
- Federal Statutory/Legislative History Research

Week 5 – Sept 22

- Missouri Legislative Research (Cindy Shearrer, Associate Law Librarian)
- Regulatory research
Week 6 – Sept 29
Office meeting w/professor – schedule on TWEN (Sept 25 – Oct 5)
  • Use of Social Media for legal research (Resa Kerns, Associate Law Librarian)

Week 7 – Oct 6
  • Litigation Research (Court Rules, Dockets, Expert Witnesses, Jury Verdicts)

Week 8 – Oct 13
  • Transactional Research (Company Information, Competitive Intelligence, Due Diligence)

Week 9 – Oct 20
  • Class does not meet this week.

Week 10 – Oct 27 (Symposium instead of class)
  • Attend opening session 9:00 – 11:00 of 2017 Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution Symposium: The First Amendment on Campus: Identifying Principles for Best Practices for Managing and Resolving Disputes http://law.missouri.edu/faculty/csdr-symposium/schedule/
  • Related research assignment to accompany.

Week 11 – Nov 3
  • Legal research innovation
  • Law practice technology competency

Week 12 – Nov 10
  • Research Derby (speed, stamina, strategy)

Week 13 – Nov 17
  • Research Guide Presentations (extended class period to Noon or a little after)

Week 14 – December 1
  • Research Guide Presentations (extended class period to Noon or a little after)

Stop Day: Dec 4
  • Research Guide and Final Research Assignments Due 5pm

University and Law School Policies

A. Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of the School of Law. All members of the law school community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and
honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The law school community regards breaches of the School of Law’s Honor Code as extremely serious matters. In the event that you violate our Academic Integrity rules on any portion of the work required for this class, you may expect a failing grade in this course as well as possible disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

B. Intellectual Pluralism
The Law School welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this course may address concerns to either myself, one of the law school deans, or the University’s Director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (http:osrr.missouri.edu). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of this course and the instructor at the end of the course.