Advanced Legal Research
Professor Randy Diamond
Fall Semester 2018
Friday, 10:00 – 11:40, Courtroom
diamondrj@missouri.edu  Office: Room 224J Law Library

No textbook. Course materials will be on TWEN course page

For class on Aug 24 (this first assignment is due by 2pm on Aug 23)

- Logon to TWEN course page – review syllabus

- Please email me diamondrj@missouri.edu your responses to the following by Thurs. Aug 23 2pm.

1. How would you tout your research skills to a prospective employer? Describe particular strengths. Share research successes if you like.

2. Briefly describe your worst legal research experience. What made it bad, discouraging, etc.

3. What do you need from this course to improve your research skills?

4. Your major course project will be to develop knowledge in an area of the law through research I will assign you. At the end of the semester, you will share your emerging expertise with the class in a presentation similar to a CLE program. Details to follow in the first class, but to begin identifying a suitable topic, please answer the following questions. These are merely topic finding prompts – okay to say “not sure” and fine to identify interests/preferences I have not mentioned.
   a. What type of law would you like to practice? Civil or Criminal? Litigation or Transactional?
   b. Private or public practice? If law firm practice appeals to you, what size – large, medium, small, or solo?
   c. If you prefer the public sector or non-firm, what setting, e.g., AG office, state or federal government, university counsel, legal aid, charitable organization, nonprofit prosecutor, public defender, other?
   d. What type of law interests you? The following is a random, non-comprehensive list. It is a mere tip of the iceberg for what might become your career path and passion. IP, Civil Rights, Criminal Prosecution, Criminal Defense, Education Law, Employment Law, Privacy, Health Law, Arbitration, Mediation Corporate, Family Law, Trusts and Estates, Tax, Consumer law, Products Liability, M&A, Blockchain, Pharmaceutical and Medical Device, Poverty Law, White Collar, Death Penalty, Workers Comp, Juvenile Justice, other?
   e. Areas of the law or legal issues you might like to research in greater-depth not mentioned above, if any.
5. Assign me a challenging research question. The harder the better! Fine for your question to come from
   a. a course assignment
   b. a journal, competition, or other academic activity
   c. a faculty research assistant assignment
   d. a particularly taxing, factually dense or factually bereft work assignment, given without much guidance, direction, or prospect of finding a semblance of a reasonable answer (the kind of question that left you momentarily, or longer, hating legal research)
   e. a legal issue in the news that peaks your interest
   f. a family member, friend, or acquaintance or some other source

I bill by the hour, but this one’s on the house. Fire away!