Advanced Legal Research (Law 5320)
Fall 2018, 2 Credits
Friday 10:00 – 11:40, Courtroom
Professor Randy Diamond, diamondrj@missouri.edu, Room 224J 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:
Individualized Research Assignments: 60%
In-Class Research/Homework: 20%
Research Presentation: 15%
Participation and Professionalism: 5%

Course Materials
There is no textbook. TWEN course page contains 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. Dates/topics below subject to change.

**Office Meeting w/Professor (to be scheduled: Sep 19 – 26)**
Research assigned.

**Week 1 – August 24**
- Course Objectives and Assignments
- See Course Bulletin Board for pre-class assignment due August 23rd, 2pm
- Panel – past ALR students discuss their summer research experience and employer expectations

**Week 2 – August 31**
- Westlaw advanced resources and searching
- Bloomberg Law advanced resources and searching

**Week 3 – Sept 7**
- Fastcase [http://www.mobar.org/memberbenefits/fastcase/faq.htm](http://www.mobar.org/memberbenefits/fastcase/faq.htm)
- Google for Lawyers

**Week 4 – Sept 14**
- Lexis Advance advanced resources and searching
- Regulatory Research

**Week 5 – Sept 21**
- Office meeting w/professor – schedule on TWEN (Sept 19 – 26)

**Week 6 – Sept 28**
- Missouri Legislative Research (Cindy Shearrer, Associate Law Librarian)
- Federal Legislative Research

**Week 7 – Oct 5**
- Litigation Research (Court Rules, Dockets, Expert Witnesses, Jury Verdicts)

**Week 8 – Oct 12**
- Use of Social Media for legal research (Resa Kerns, Associate Law Librarian)

**Week 9 – Oct 19**
- Transactional Research (Company Information, Competitive Intelligence, Due Diligence)
Week 10 – Oct 26
• Legal research innovation
• Law practice technology competency

Week 11 – Nov 2
• Westlaw Edge preview

Week 12 – Nov 9
• Class does not meet

Week 13 – Nov 15 & 16
• Research Presentations
  ○ Nov 15 6pm - 8pm
  ○ Nov 16 10am - Noon

Week 14 – Nov 29 & 30
• Research Presentations
  ○ Nov 29 6pm - 8pm
  ○ Nov 30 10am - Noon
  ○ Final research projects due Nov. 30 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.