For Aug 23rd class (this first assignment is due by 2pm on Aug 22)

- On the TWEN course page, read the syllabus and sign up for an office meeting (Sept 12-20).
- Please email me diamondrj@missouri.edu your responses to the following questions by 2pm on Thurs. Aug 22.

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

2. Briefly describe your worst legal research experience. What made it bad, discouraging, etc. What did you learn from the experience?

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. More about this 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, non-profit prosecutor, public defender, other?
   d. What type of law interests you? The following is a random, non-comprehensive list. It is merely suggestive of what may be or 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, Immigration, Consumer law, Products Liability, M&A, Blockchain, Pharmaceutical and Medical Device, Poverty Law, Artificial Intelligence, White Collar, Death Penalty, Workers Comp, Juvenile Justice, other?
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!

CAVEAT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
If the challenging research question involves a real-life client matter, do not identify the client by
name and do not share information with me that is privileged or your employer would not want
disclosed. I will sometimes use these questions for classroom instruction unless you tell me not
to share with the class. In that case, give me a second challenging question I may use in class.