PROFESSOR:
Jayne Woods, 305 Hulston Hall
Cell: (573) 823-8454 (I accept both calls and text messages)
Email: woodsjt@missouri.edu
Office hours: Mondays 11:00-3:00, and by appointment, as needed

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability-related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify Registrar Denise Boessen and Dean David Mitchell of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

RECOMMENDED (NOT REQUIRED) TEXT:

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is mandatory. Repeated absences will be considered to demonstrate a lack of commitment to the team, and the professor reserves the right to consider repeated class absences when making decisions regarding team selection and competition participation.

CLASS GRADE: Moot Court is a pass/fail class. Students must complete all work at a satisfactory level to pass.

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 potential cheating, consult your professor.

RECORDING NOT PERMITTED: University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under Section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the conclusion of this course, students will learn how to effectively brief and argue an appellate case and will have participated in the National Moot Court Competition.
SYLLABUS

PRE-PROBLEM
Aug. 19—Mid-September

“Moot Camp” -- During the first few weeks of class, while we wait for the problem to be released, we will brush up on our writing and argument skills through some mini-problems. For these problems, you will be expected to draft an abbreviated argument section of a brief in response to a closed universe of resources. These mini briefs will be due the following class period, at which you will also get the opportunity to argue your side in an abbreviated oral argument (approximately 10 minutes per side).

Also during the time before the problem is released, we will discuss various brief-writing strategies.

BRIEF DRAFTING
Mid-September through Mid-October

Because the rules do not allow you to have any outside assistance and because I want to give you the maximum amount of out-of-class time to draft, we will not meet during our regularly scheduled class time during the brief-writing phase of the competition. You are, of course, always welcome to contact me with any questions, and I will gladly answer those that I am allowed, within the confines of the rules, to answer.

ARGUMENT PREPARATION
Mid-October through November 6th

After you have submitted your brief, we will begin oral argument practice rounds. I would like to have a minimum of five practice rounds per team—three on-brief and two off-brief. The competition rules allow us no more than three practice rounds with the two teams competing against one another. I would like the first two to be in front of faculty (one on-brief, one off-brief), and the final to be on-brief, in front of practicing judges or appellate attorneys. We will also schedule additional practices, as time allows.

COMPETITION
November 8-9, 2019

The regional rounds will take place this year at UMKC in Kansas City, Missouri. Depending upon how the school elects to run the competition, we may need to leave on November 7th in order to participate in competitor and coach meetings the night before the competition. And, should we advance, we may not return home until the morning of November 10. If we move out of regionals, the national competition will be held mid-February in New York.

POST-COMPETITION
November 18, 2019

We will need to meet one final time after the competition to do course evaluations and de-brief on the competition.