Welcome to the class! I look forward to working with you this semester.

First Assignment

In preparation for January 21st class:

- Review the Canvas course page courses.missouri.edu or canvas.missouri.edu read the syllabus and sign up for a Zoom meeting in February for your major course project.

- View Westlaw Advanced Legal Research “Power of Terms and Connectors” tutorial at https://trainingtools.thomsonreuters.com/alr/techniques/termsconnectors (If interested, see info about Westlaw Certifications here)


- Please post your responses to the questions below on Canvas (or email your responses to me diamondrj@missouri.edu) by 8pm on Wednesday, January 19.

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 and analytical skills 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 project at our 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? (If you don’t intend to practice law, how will your law
degree assist with career goals and what law or law-related research interests you?)

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?

e. Areas of the law or legal issues you might like to research in greater depth not mentioned in the previous section, if any.

f. The major course project topic proposal is due February 2. I am happy to assist with identifying a topic or with narrowing the scope of an area of interest to a manageable size project.