Advanced Legal Research (Law 5320) Spring 2023 (2 Credits)

Friday 11:00 – 12:40, Room 4
Prof. Randy Diamond, diamondrj@missouri.edu, Room 121A Law Library,
573-882-2935, Office Hours by Appointment

Text  The course does not use a textbook. Materials are posted on Canvas.

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
**Attendance Policy:** According to American Bar Association accreditation guidelines, class attendance is required and expected of all students. Any student that misses more than **four (4)** regularly scheduled classes during the semester will be withdrawn from the course.

**Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19:** If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend class and contact your health care provider and/or student health immediately. If you are unable to attend a scheduled class due to illness or medical reasons, a recording of the class will be posted on the course Canvas site for your review, and any Powerpoint materials used during the class will also be posted on the course Canvas site.

If you cannot attend a particular class session for **health** reasons, I will count you as “present” for that class session **if**

1. you advise me of your absence by e-mail, either before or immediately after class,
2. you review the recording of the class,
3. you complete any in-class work/exercises by the deadline I set, and
4. you send me an e-mail message with at least two questions regarding the materials on Canvas for the class you missed.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Individualized Research Assignments: **60%**  
Research Module Assignments: **20%**  
Research Presentation: **15%**  
Participation and Professionalism: **5%**

**Canvas:** Please check the Canvas course site canvas.missouri.edu or courses.missouri.edu regularly for instructions and materials for class meetings and course assignments. **The course does not use a textbook.**

**Participation and Professionalism**  
Consistent and thoughtful course participation is expected. Successful participation encompasses participating in discussions, asking questions and being an active listener. 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.

**Grading Criteria**  
The criteria I use to evaluate your work emphasizes attributes legal employers seek and value in new lawyers. Key attributes for this course in addition to quality of research and written analysis include timeliness, diligence, initiative, clarity of thought, pride and ownership of work product, interest, curiosity, sound judgment, creativity, responsiveness, and other similar qualities. No single attribute defines success. In combination and to varying degrees the qualities referenced demonstrate course engagement, effort, growing competencies, and professionalism.
Class Meetings
Lectures, demos, discussions, and in-class assignments. Dates/topics below subject to change.

Zoom Meeting w/Professor in February (Sign up times will be posted on Canvas.)
Research for the major course project will be assigned at this mandatory meeting.

Week 1 – Jan 20
- Course Objectives and Assignments
- See Course Bulletin Board or Canvas for pre-class assignment due Jan 18, 8pm
- Westlaw terms and connectors refresher

Week 2 – Jan 27
- Bloomberg Law dockets
- Google for Lawyers and FastCase
- Current Awareness
- Major Research Project topic proposal due Feb 1st 5pm

Week 3 – Feb 3
- Missouri Legislative Research
- Federal Legislative Research

Week 4 – Feb 10
- Admin Law Research
- Office meeting w/professor – schedule on Canvas (Feb 10 – Feb 21)

Week 5 – Feb 17
- Social Media Research

Week 6 – Feb 24
- Business and Transactional Research

Week 7 – March 3
- Legal Analytics
- Advanced Litigation Research

Week 8 – March 10
- Medical Research for Lawyers
Week 9 – March 17
• Expert Witness Research

Week 10 – March 24
• Policy Research
• Legal Research Innovation

Week 11 – April 7
• Critical Legal Studies
• Critical Legal Research

Week 12 – April 14
• Class does not meet – prep for Week 13 and 14 student presentations

Week 13 – April 21 (extended class 11 – 1:30)
• Research Presentations

Week 14 – April 28 (extended class 11
• Research Presentations

Final research projects due May 1

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the Law School community must acquire, develop, and present their work responsibly and honorably. 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 academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include grade sanctions (up to and including failing the course) and disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. I encourage you to make sure that your work in this and other courses complies in all respects with the Law School’s Honor Code. If you have any question regarding whether your conduct complies with the Honor Code, you should contact me for clarification. If you become aware that you or another student have violated the Honor Code, you MUST report the violation promptly to me or to Dean Trachtenberg.

RECORDINGS: UM 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 of the University of Missouri. In this class, students may make audio recordings of course activity. However, any distribution or redistribution of such recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course (including, but not limited to, any
posting of a recording to social media) is prohibited without my express permission and the permission of any other student in the class who was recorded. Students who violate 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. Note: Because this class is being recorded already for posting to the Canvas site, you do not need to record the class yourself.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact Dean Lidsky or Dean Trachtenberg, the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.