



## BOSTON COLLEGE LAW LIBRARY

### Legal Research Course Offerings - Academic Year 2011-2012

*All Courses Satisfy the Practical Skills Requirement*

#### *Courses Offered Fall 2011*

**LL79701 Advanced Legal Research** (Fall 2011: 3 credits)

Instructors: Mary Ann Neary, Alex Berrio Matamoros

**LL79702 Advanced Legal Research** (Fall 2011: 3 credits)

Instructor: Laurel Davis

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is designed as an in-depth look at the process of legal research. Students are exposed to a wide range of legal materials and practical techniques and strategies for using these materials competently and effectively in the research process. The goal of the course is to create self-sufficient legal researchers, capable of analyzing a legal problem, and formulating and executing the appropriate and most effective research methodology.

Particular attention is paid to types of legal sources and research not covered in the first year of law school (e.g. administrative law, legislative histories and legal practice materials). Both print and electronic sources are explored and critiqued. The course covers Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law and other electronic sources. The grade is based upon several course assignments and a final exam. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

**LL47801 Environmental Legal Research** (Fall 2011: 2 credits)

Instructor: Joan Shear

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is designed as an in-depth look at the legal research materials and techniques used in the practice of environmental law. Strong emphasis on administrative law and the rulemaking process, legislative history, and government documents. Course will also review basic case law and statutory research. Print and electronic sources are compared and contrasted to help students learn economical and efficient research skills necessary to be a successful environmental lawyer. Ungraded weekly exercises help students to track their progress in learning the materials. Grade will be based on class participation and two graded exercises. The class will meet three hours per week for the first two thirds of the semester. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

**LL67501 International Legal Research** (Fall 2011: 2 credits)

Instructor: Mark Sullivan

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is designed to introduce students to basic research skills in the area of international, European Union, and transnational law. Students will learn how to locate and evaluate the major sources of public international law, such as treaties, customary law, and international practice. Decisions of international, European Union, and transnational courts and tribunals, and documents and materials from international, European Union, and transnational organizations will also be examined. Classes will meet for one hundred minutes each week. Grades will be based on three research exercises. Each of the first two research exercises will account for twenty five percent of the grade. The final research exercise will account for fifty percent of the grade. Recommended for students interested in international legal practice, members of the Jessup Moot Court team, and the 2L staff of the Boston College International and Comparative Law Review. Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

**LL47001 Immigration Law Research** (Fall 2011: 2 credits)

Instructor: Karen Breda

*Prerequisites: You must be registered for LL 74901 Immigration Law or have taken it during a previous semester.*

The Immigration Law Guided Research Seminar is a two credit optional companion course to Immigration Law. The course will teach students how to research complex immigration law issues, using specialized secondary

sources, administrative agency decisions and regulations, federal constitutional law, statutes, and case law. In addition, the course will reinforce traditional case law and statutory research techniques. Research techniques and sources will track the course content of Immigration Law. Students will receive a brief introduction to the international and foreign law resources used in immigration law. Ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the material. Grade will be based upon two graded assignments and a final, open book, take-home examination.

### **Courses Offered Spring 2012**

#### **LL79701 Advanced Legal Research** (Spring 2012: 3 credits)

Instructor: Karen Breda

#### **LL79702 Advanced Legal Research** (Spring 2012: 3 credits)

Instructor: Mark Sullivan

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is designed as an in-depth look at the process of legal research. Students are exposed to a wide range of legal materials and practical techniques and strategies for using these materials competently and effectively in the research process. The goal of the course is to create self-sufficient legal researchers, capable of analyzing a legal problem, and formulating and executing the appropriate and most effective research methodology. Particular attention is paid to types of legal sources and research not covered in the first year of law school (e.g. administrative law, legislative histories and legal practice materials). Both print and electronic sources are explored and critiqued. The course covers Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law and other electronic sources. The grade is based upon several course assignments and a final exam. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

#### **LL95601 Bankruptcy Law Research** (Spring 2012: 2 credits)

Instructor: Mary Ann Neary

*Prerequisites: None.*

Students are introduced to research methods and resources for tracking bankruptcy filings, locating opinions, and utilizing practice materials. Emphasis on technology and tools used in current bankruptcy practice, e.g. electronic case filing (ECF/ECM), docket searching, and specialized bankruptcy practice software. Course grade will be based on a series of short written assignments and a final exam. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

#### **LL49301 Insurance & Civil Litigation Research** (Spring 2012: 2credits)

Instructor: Karen Breda

*Prerequisites: None.*

This course is designed as an in-depth look at legal research techniques and resources used by lawyers in the insurance field and by civil litigation attorneys. Course will cover sources of insurance law and insurance obligations, including contracts, common law doctrines, statutes and regulations. Course will teach techniques used in researching contract interpretation, tort law, government regulations, court rules, conflict of laws, case evaluation and ethical dilemmas. Course will also cover secondary sources, research tools and organizations for both insurance specialists and trial attorneys. Both print and electronic sources will be explored and utilized. Weekly ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the material. Grade will be based on two graded assignments and a final examination.

#### **LL95001 Intellectual Property Research** (Spring 2012: 2 credits)

Instructor: Joan Shear

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is designed as an in-depth look at the legal research materials and techniques used in the practice of intellectual property law. Course will cover basic primary sources used in IP law such as the U.S. Constitution, statutes, and cases. Course will also cover research tools and techniques unique to IP such as patent and trademark searching, and the activities and publications of the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress and Patent and Trademark Office of the Department of Commerce. Electronic sources are compared and contrasted to help students learn economical and efficient research skills necessary to be a successful IP lawyer. Ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the materials. Grade will be based on class participation, effort and two graded research exercises.

**LL\_\_\_\_\_ Research for Criminal Law Practice** (Spring 2012: 2 credits)

Instructor: Laurel Davis

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of legal research materials and techniques that will be useful for students who are interested in becoming prosecutors or criminal defense attorneys. Course will cover basic primary sources of criminal law such as the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions, as well as federal and state statutes, cases, and administrative law. Course will cover important secondary sources in the criminal law field; legislative history research skills; how to find and use jury instructions, sentencing guidelines, dockets, and practice materials such as formbooks. Students will also learn how to find and work with criminal court rules. Both print and electronic sources are explored and critiqued. The course covers Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law and other electronic sources. Ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the materials. Grade will be based on two graded research exercises and a take-home final examination. Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

