



## BOSTON COLLEGE LAW LIBRARY

### Legal Research and Law Practice Technology Course Offerings Spring 2010

#### **LL79702 Advanced Legal Research** (Spring 2010: 3 credits)

Instructors: Mark Sullivan and Karen Breda

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is designed as an in-depth look at the process of legal research and methodologies. 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 on several course assignments and a final examination. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

#### **LL95601 Bankruptcy Law Research** (Spring 2010: 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.

#### **LL37401 Insurance Law Research** (Spring 2010: 2 credits)

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 lawyers litigating insurance disputes. Course will cover sources of insurance law and insurance obligations, including statutes, regulations, insurance contracts, and case law. Course will also cover secondary sources, research tools, and organizations specific to insurance law. Course will include techniques used in researching insurance contract interpretation, insurance tort law, government regulation of insurance, conflicts of law, and ethical dilemmas. Both print and electronic sources will be explored and utilized. Course meets for 100 minutes per week throughout the semester. Ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the materials. Grade will be based on several graded assignments and a final exam.

#### **LL95001 Intellectual Property Research** (Spring 2010: 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.

#### **LL62401 Law Practice Technology** (Spring 2010: 2 credits)

Instructors: Marguerite Most and Denise Sharif

*Prerequisites: None*

This course will introduce students to the realities of technology and technology's impact on current law practice. These technologies will be investigated for their utility to the practitioner and for their legal and ethical implications. The

technology applications will span the areas from trial technologies to electronic discovery to knowledge management systems to electronic client/conflicts management. The goal is for students to gain hands-on experience with selected technologies and to develop specialized knowledge in a topic, related to twenty-first century law practice, to be featured in their individual projects. Classes meet once a week for 100 minutes. The grade will be based on a major classroom presentation, using technology and focusing on issues connected to digital-era practice, e.g. the issue of metadata as an element of electronic evidence; participation in an electronic course discussion list maintained by instructors; and completion of a series of brief individual and team assignments.