

## SUMMER 2013 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL

### **L- 522 JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SKILLS COURSE** – Monica Wallace

**1 credit**

Limited to 10 students; by permission of instructor only. Contact Dawn Skopinski for permission at Skopinsk@buffalo.edu or 645-6261. Mandatory co-requisite for Judicial Clerkship – Intensive (L 523); if there are openings in the course after preference is given to the Judicial Clerkship - Intensive students, Judicial Clerkship students (L797 – 3 credits) may be admitted.

This course will help students develop the legal skills necessary to perform as successful student judicial clerks. Assignments will require students to further develop and refine their research, writing, and analytical skills. Students will learn how to prepare bench memoranda, judicial opinions, and other documents typically produced by judicial law clerks. We will examine the function and role of judicial clerks, the relationship between law clerks and judges, and the ethical obligations governing judges and their clerks. Students taking this course will gain a deeper understanding of trial and appellate court practice and become more adept at addressing complex legal questions. Because students will be simultaneously serving as judicial clerks, ample time will be allotted for questions, discussion, and the exchange of workplace experiences. This course is being offered through distance learning software on the internet. Students must have a high speed internet connection and a computer with a camera and microphone.

### **L- 564 LEGAL ETHICS AND DECISIONMAKING** – James Milles

**3 credits**

This course examines the ethical standards and legal obligations of lawyers and the contextual factors which lead to ethical failures. We will discuss real life problems using the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the Restatement (Third) of the Law Governing Lawyers, as well as New York rules, statutes, and case law which govern lawyer behavior and the lawyer's duties to the client, third parties, the courts and the public. This course will focus not just on learning the rules, but understanding and recognizing the circumstances in which lawyers break the rules. An understanding of the rules accompanied by critical self-awareness helps the lawyer recognize pitfalls before they become serious and gives students the analytical tools they need to make good decisions. The grade will be based on a multiple-choice final exam. **The course fulfills the 3-credit ethics requirement mandated for students who were admitted to SUNY Buffalo Law School after July 2012.**

### **L-613 EVIDENCE** - Charles Ewing

3 credits

A study of the common-law and statutory rules of evidence designed to regulate the judicial fact-finding process, and the underlying principles and policy considerations upon which they rest. PREREQUISITE or CO-REQUISITE for Trial Technique.

### **L-628 RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT: APPLICATION AND CHALLENGES IN LEGAL PRACTICE** - Barbara A. Sherk

**3 credits**

This course provides an examination of diverse practice issues in ethics and professionalism that confront attorneys. Study includes a comprehensive overview of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct, with reference to applicable case law and ethics opinions. Class discussion will apply the rules to current issues and hypothetical problems from a variety of practice settings. The final grade will be based on a multiple choice examination. **The course fulfills the 3-credit ethics requirement mandated for students who were admitted to SUNY Buffalo Law School after July 2012.**

**L-673 LAW, BUSINESS AND FINANCE** - Philip Halpern  
3 credits

This course introduces students to the important vocabulary, concepts, instruments, contracts and other documents familiar to corporate, finance, and securities lawyers. The focus is on the interests that motivate various players, the application of relevant legal rules, and the role of lawyers in structuring and executing transactions as well as negotiating and drafting essential contracts, regulatory filings, and other documents.

No prior knowledge or exposure to business or finance is necessary or assumed. This course is intended to provide a foundation for subsequent business and finance-related courses such as Corporations, Securities Regulation, and Corporate Finance.

**L-725 PRACTICE-READY LEGAL WRITING AND ANALYSIS** – Laura Reilly  
3 credits

This course covers objective and persuasive writing, as well as document drafting. The goal of this course is to make you more comfortable with legal writing and analysis to enable you to quickly produce excellent work in practice. During this course, you will improve your writing skills, sharpen your analysis, and further develop your editing ability. You will draft a statute, a contract, jury instructions, a demand letter, a complaint/answer, a notice of motion/motion, an opinion letter, a will, and an argument section of a brief. This course is focused solely on writing and analysis – there is no research component. This course is capped at 15 students to promote a writing workshop atmosphere, where you will write, give and receive feedback, and rewrite during every class. This course is not a substitute for LAWR III (Law 517). **This course fulfills the skills requirement.**

**L-838 CONTRACTS IN CONTEXT: DRAFTING CONTRACTS & THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF CONTRACT LAW** - Bernadette Gargano  
3 credits

This course will focus on contract drafting and the practical application of contract law. We will first dissect a contract and its provisions, then we will learn how to draft specific contract provisions in light of New York law. Our focus will be on understanding the import, interpretation, and enforcement of particular contract provisions and how to weave those provisions into a cohesive and enforceable contract. We will discuss a variety of practical topics, including jurisdictional clauses, choice of law provisions, non-disclosure clauses, non-compete clauses, arbitration or other ADR provisions, and severability. Finally, we will devote part of our time to client meetings and negotiations. Client meetings are necessary to determine what a client wants and what can legally and effectively be achieved. Clients must understand the impact and scope of contract provisions as well as possible sources of liability. Negotiation skills are key to the formation of contracts between two or more parties, and negotiations must be tailored to the objectives trying to be achieved. **This course satisfies the skills requirement.**