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**Fall 2008 ~ LEGL 2800H  
Legal and Regulatory  
Environment of Business**

**Course Objectives:**

- a) To familiarize students with the legal and ethical considerations that affect business transactions, to enable them to form an initial foundation to become informed leaders in the business community.
- b) To introduce students to a legal vocabulary to enable them to understand the ramifications of law in a corporate context, which is essential for effective risk management.
- c) To alert students to current legal issues affecting business, especially those related to global business.

**I. WHAT IS LAW? INTRODUCTION TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW: 8/19-26**

Chapter 1 – Law as the Foundation of Business *Sign up for a presentation*  
Chapter 18 – International Law *By Tues, 8/26 B Turn in index cards*  
Handout: Ethics Case for Discussion

**II. THE RELATIONSHIP OF LAW & ETHICS: 8/28**

Chapter 2 – The Ethical Basis of Law and Business Management - Discussion of Handout

**III. COMMENCING AND RESOLVING DISPUTES: 9/2-9/9**

Chapter 3 - The Court System  
Chapter 4 - The Litigation Process  
Chapter 5 – Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

**IV. THE CONSTITUTION AND BUSINESS: 9/11-9/16**

Chapter 6 - The Constitution and Business  
Review Exam I

**Thurs 9/18 - EXAM I**

**V. GET IT IN WRITING: CONTRACT LAW: 9/23**

Chapter 7 – Principles of Contract Law

**Thurs, 9/25 - Oral Argument #1: *Boumediene v. Bush* (U.S. Sup. Ct. 2008): Did the Court get it right?**

**VI. TORTS: INTENTIONAL TORTS, NEGLIGENCE AND STRICT LIABILITY: 9/30-10/2**

Chapter 8 – Torts in the Business Environment

**Thurs, 10/7 Oral Argument #2: Are there too many frivolous lawsuits? Should there be tort reform?**

**\*\* MIDPOINT: JOURNALS DUE \*\***

**VII. CRIMINAL LAW: 10/9-10/14**

Chapter 9 – Criminal Law and Business  
Chapter 13 Antitrust Law – Regulating Competition  
Chapter 14 SOX and Securities Regulation – securities fraud and insider trading  
**Th. 10/16 - Oral Argument #3: Life after *D.C. v. Heller*: Should there be gun control?**  
10/21 *Smartest Guys in the Room*

**VIII. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: 10/23**  
Chapter 10 Intellectual Property  
Tu 10/28: Discussion Continued & Exam Review  
**Thurs. 10/30: EXAM II**

**“Fall Break”**

**IX. EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR LAW: 11/4-13**  
11/4 Chapter 15 - Employment and Labor Laws  
**Thurs, 11/6 Oral Argument #4: Should eBay be held liable for selling fakes?**  
11/11-13 Chapter 16 - Discrimination in Employment  
Tues 11/18 **Oral Argument #5: Off-Duty Conduct: Does an employer have a “right to know”?**

**X. THE LAW IN ACTION: *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr: 11/20-12/4** *Thanksgiving Break 11/22-30*  
Chapter 17 - Environmental Laws & Pollution Control (read as background)  
*A Civil Action* Th 11/20 pp. 1-82  
Note: you should be completely finished with *A Civil Action* for our discussion on 12/2

**Journals Due: Thursday, 4 December – Please staple or place in a folder – no binders!**  
(Note that at UGA, Tues 12/9 is actually “Friday”)

**FINAL EXAM: Thurs December 11, 12-3:00 p.m.**

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**Grading**

Exam I	20%
Exam II	25%
Presentation	15%
Final	30%
Journals & Participation	10% Attendance, assignments & engagement

The following scale will be used in this class:

A 94-100, A- 90-93.99, B+ 87-89.99, B 84-86.99, B- 80-83.99, C+ 77-79.99, C 74-76.99, C- 70-73.99, D 69.99-60, F 59.99 and lower.

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

# Class Requirements & Information

## Texts and Technology

*The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business* 14<sup>th</sup> Ed. Reed, *et al.* (Do not use an earlier edition)

*A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr (you should be able to purchase this at any bookstore or order it from Amazon.com)

*The New York Times* (1.888.698.2655 Media Code S61EH) or the *Wall Street Journal* (sign up in class)

Be sure to say you are subscribing for APagnattaro@s class@- Also highly suggested: *The Economist* (www.economist.com)  
Blackboard <http://terry.blackboard.com/> - announcements, course information, chapter outlines, media links and grades

**Conferences** - Please feel free to stop by my office during office hours or to schedule a conference to discuss any concerns you might have about the course. You should also feel free to e-mail me any time. (Note your name, class # & class period)

**Journals & Class Participation Grade** - Consists of attendance, journals, assignments and engagement with the class. Journals should be typed and consist of: one entry each week (15 entries) re: your impressions, analysis of a current legal event (preferably business related) **plus** a response to each oral argument/presentation. For the current events, you must cite the source of the news, e.g. "Ebbers Receives 25-Year Sentence," Wall Street Journal, 8 August 2005. Regular class attendance is essential. Roll will be taken every class. You are required to sign in on the day of class. I will not permit you to be counted present if you did not sign the roll. You can miss two classes without a penalty. Thereafter, for each class missed, your class participation grade will be reduced by 5 points. Having someone else sign the roll for you is a violation of the academic honesty code. **Even if absent, you are responsible for all material covered (exam material frequently will cover material from class) and all announcements.** Each student is encouraged to participate in class discussions. Failure to fully participate in the oral arguments may result in a failing participation grade, as well as loss of credit for the oral argument.

**Presentations** – A separate handout detailing the requirements will be distributed. You are strongly encouraged to meet with Dr. Pagnattaro as you prepare your presentation.

**Exams** - Students are expected to be present for all exams and to be on time; no one will be allowed to take the exam after a student who is finished has left the exam. Exams will consist of short essay questions and/or case studies that require students to identify legal issues and apply the law. Absent extreme extenuating circumstances, **make-up exams are not given.** Any such requests for a make-up exam must be accompanied by written documentation from Student Affairs. All make-ups and extensions are at the instructor=s discretion. The final will cover cumulative information and contain an essay question on *A Civil Action*.

**Identification Photo/Information** - I will hand out note cards on the first day of class. Please return the card to me with the following information:

Last Name, First APrefer to be called@	Clear, recent photo [Staple here]
Class #, time, semester, year	
Local Phone #	
E-mail address	
Future Goals	
Interests	
Concerns about the class	

**Recommendations** - If I know you well enough to do so, I=m happy to write recommendations. To do so, I require the following materials/information: 1) up-to-date transcript; 2) phone # and e-mail address; 3) deadline, appropriate forms & explicit instructions about where and to whom the recommendation is to be sent; 4) a statement from you about the nature of the program/job, etc., as well as any information that tells me about yourself, your goals, motivations, interests, obstacles overcome, and any other relevant information else that makes you unique.

**UGA's Honor Code & Academic Honesty** - All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic career. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me or to consult <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm> for more information about the UGA's policies.

# **Oral Argument Guidelines**

## **LEGL 2800H – Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business**

### **Oral Argument Format**

Each group will be allowed 20 minutes to present their argument to the class. The “Yes” argument will go first. Each team may have a 5-minute rebuttal at the conclusion of the arguments. If the teams determine that they want to divide the 50 minutes in a different format, this must be cleared with Dr. P in advance. All major arguments should be covered by each team. You are encouraged to anticipate your opponent’s arguments and rebut them as appropriate. Remember you are to be an *advocate* for the designated point of view.

### **Handout for the Class**

Each team should prepare a concise, informative one-page handout for the class (need 31 copies). Consider including: the name of each team member, major points, data/statistics, and helpful references for further study. The handout should be very professional, designed to help your audience follow your argument and have a reference for later when the writing journal entry.

### **Bibliography**

Each team should compile a bibliography of sources divided in to categories as follows: books, periodicals, web sites, other (e.g. interviews). A hard copy of your bibliography is due the day of your oral argument and you should also send a copy to Dr. P via e-mail. You should use high-quality sources. Please note that although Wikipedia may be a quick place to look for information as you are getting started, it is NOT considered a definitive academic source. Please do not cite to it in your presentation.

### **Meeting with Dr. Pagnattaro**

Each team is encouraged to meet with Dr. P to discuss the argument. If you experience any difficulty working with a team mate, you are encouraged to work through the issue; however, if you are unable to resolve the issue quickly, please let Dr. P know and she will endeavor to get the group back on track. Failure to fully participate with the group may result in the loss of credit both on the oral argument grade and class participation grade.

### **Classroom Equipment & Slides**

Check the classroom to see what you will need! Teams are encouraged to be creative – but always professional. *Please* conduct a test run on any technology before you are scheduled to present. If you are using slides, please give Dr. P a hard copy before you begin your presentation.

### **Discussion, Questions and Journal Entries**

As “judges” of the arguments, the audience should be prepared to engage in a lively discussion with and rigorous questioning of the teams. A journal entry should be written about each argument. If you are a presenter, you should note that in your journal and you may also want to write a short statement about the experience.

### **Evaluation**

Criteria for evaluation include: persuasiveness of the argument, clarity, organization, quality of sources used to support the argument, effective delivery of the argument and appropriate attire, and the ability to give knowledgeable on-your-feet responses to questions. Full participation with your group is essential. Not being in touch with your group on a regular basis (responding to e-mail and phone messages) and waiting until the last minute (i.e. less than 3 days before the presentation) can adversely affect both your class participation grade and oral argument grade at the discretion of the instructor.

## Oral Argument/Presentation Sign-Up Sheet

**Oral Argument #1: *Boumediene v. Bush* (U.S. Sup. Ct. 2008): Did the Court get it right?**

**YES - majority opinion**

**NO - dissents**

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**Oral Argument #2 Are there too many frivolous lawsuits? Should there be tort reform?**

**YES**

**NO**

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**Oral Argument #3: Life after *D.C. v. Heller*: Should there be gun control?**

**YES (Brady Campaign)**

**NO (NRA)**

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**Oral Argument #4: Should e-bay be held liable for selling fakes? (see US & EU)**

**YES**

**NO**

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**Oral Argument #5: Off-Duty Conduct: Does an employer have a “right to know”?**

**YES pro-employer**

**NO pro-employee privacy**

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