Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to teach students how to conduct legal research in several major topical areas implicated in a variety of business transactions. The course will take an integrative approach to demonstrate the connections and interdependence of these legal subject areas while performing business legal research.

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this course. Since a great way to develop your legal research skills is to work with resources used by lawyers in the practice of law, the assigned readings will come from many different secondary and practice materials. Most of these readings will be available through one of our subscription platforms, but since not all content is available electronically, we will be looking at certain print materials.

Attendance Policy

Classroom attendance represents an integral learning component for this class. Much of our class time will be devoted to gaining hands-on experience with various different research tools. Since directly working with these resources is an important part of developing your skills, students will be permitted only one absence. Each additional absence will result in a five point decrease in the student’s participation grade. However, I recognize that emergency situations do arise and I am willing to work with students who may encounter this situation. All classes are recorded and absent students will be required to complete any missed classwork.

Grading Weight

Pre-Class Comprehension Quiz (10%)

Each week, students will receive assigned readings, informational PowerPoints, prepared tutorials, and any other materials which will help enhance the student’s learning experience. Upon completing these assigned materials, students will be required to complete a brief quiz (15 minutes or less) designed to assess
comprehension and help focus class discussion. These quizzes must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. the day before the class (Wednesday night).

**Participation**

**Class Discussion (10%)**

Since this class covers a wide variety of subject topics, a certain degree of lecturing will be necessary to ensure that all students understand the core legal concepts and research skills. However, class discussion will be the primary communication channel through which the professor will guide students. Since this hands-on class will explore many resources and/or areas of the law, class discussion and interaction plays an important role in developing these research competencies.

**In-Class Exercises (20%)**

The best way to learn how to perform legal research is to do it. As a result, each class will devote a significant amount of time to hands-on work with different research tools and platforms. Since the main focus of these in-class exercises is to develop legal research skills in a supportive and collaborative environment, correct/incorrect answers will not factor into grade assessment. Students will be required to submit answers electronically to the professor.

**Short Assignments (25%)**

Students will be required to complete four (4) short assignments throughout the semester exploring the research topics, platforms, and strategies covered in-class. Students will have three (3) weeks from the date assigned to submit their work. These assignments will be graded and late assignments will not be accepted barring emergency extenuating circumstances.

**Final Project (35%)**

One month prior to the last class, students will receive a business hypothetical relating to many of the legal research issues covered in this course. Students will submit a legal memorandum, any appropriate supporting documents, and a log of their research activity. The deadline for submitting this project will be the final day of exams. Late projects will not be accepted unless previously cleared with the professor.

**Honor Code and Plagiarism**

The law school’s honor code applies to all graded material submitted throughout this course. Students are expected to research and complete assignments individually unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Plagiarism constitutes using another’s words
without crediting the source. Any violations will be reported and appropriate disciplinary measures taken.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Class #1 (8/21) – Introduction
- **Readings:**
  - HeinOnline
  - Print
    - ROBERT M. LINZ, *COLORADO LEGAL RESEARCH* 139-147 (2010).
    - Chapter 10: Colorado Practice Materials

Class #2 (8/28) – Business Associations I
- **Readings:**
  - WestlawNext – Practical Law
    - Checklist: Choosing an Entity Comparison Chart
    - Practice Notes: Choice of Entity: Tax Issues
    - Checklist: Forming a Corporation Checklist
    - Checklist: Forming an LLC Checklist
  - [Denver Office of Economic Development: Business Startup Checklist](#)

Class #3 (9/4) – Business Associations II
- **Readings:**
  - WestlawNext
    - Colorado Practice Series: Methods of Practice
      - Chapter 1: The Corporation
        - § 1:1, 1:6, 1:22
        - Scan forms referenced in §§ 1:103-1:105
      - Chapter 5: Limited Liability Companies
        - §§ 5:1-5:4, 5:10, 5:13
        - Scan forms referenced in §§ 5:59 & 5:61
    - Scan Secondary Sources: 50 State Surveys Corporations – Corporate Formation
- **Tutorials:**
  - Bloomberg Law
    - Help Video for Transactional Research – How Can I Find Precedent Agreements?
    - Help Video for Transactional Research – Can I Compare Clauses in Deal Documents?
    - Help Video for Transactional Research – Are There Drafting Guides I Can Explore?
Class #4 (9/11) – Financing
- **Readings:**
  - Lexis
    - Chapter 7: The Venture Financing Process
      - §§ 7.01-7.04
      - Briefly scan § 7.05
  - Bloomberg Law/Bloomberg BNA
    - Scan Heather L. Traeger, Theodore W. Kassinger, and Zachary D. Kaufman, Democratizing Entrepreneurship: An Overview Of the Past, Present, and Future of Crowdfunding, 6 AIR 178 (Issue No. 06, 02/06/13)

Class #5 (9/18) – Securities Law
- **Readings:**
  - Print
    - CCH Federal Securities Law Reports instructions
  - Casemaker
    - Jeffrey R. Thomas, Recent Developments in SEC Enforcement and Regulation, COLO. LAW., Feb. 2014 at 21.

Class #6 (9/25) – Company Research
- **Readings:**
  - Main Library – Ebrary E-Book Platform
    - The Business Owner’s Guide to Reading and Understanding Financial Statements
      - Chapter 1: The Key Financial Statements and Their Starring Role (p. 3-24)
      - Chapter 19: SEC Filings (p. 341-355)
- **Tutorials:**
  - Bloomberg Law
    - Help Video for Company Research – What Information is in a Company Profile?
    - Help Video for Transactional Research – How Do I Search for SEC Filings?
Class #7 (10/2) – Intellectual Property: Patents

- **Readings:**
  - Print
  - Read Patent material
  - Casemaker
  - Loislaw
    - Drafting Licensing Agreements
      - §§ 1.01-1.02

- **Tutorials:**
  - Bloomberg Law
    - Help Videos for Intellectual Property
      - How Can I Search for Patents?
      - How Do I Navigate Patents?

Class #8 (10/9) – Intellectual Property: Trade Secrets and Trademarks

- **Readings:**
  - Print
      - Ch. 1
      - Read Trademark material

Class #9 (10/16) – Real Property

- **Readings**
  - Lexis
    - Negotiating and Drafting Office Leases
      - §§ 1.01, 1.02, 26.01, 28A.01, 28A.02
    - Commercial Lease Forms
      - Scan through Form 1.3 Office Lease
Class #10 (10/23) – Employment Law

- **Readings:**
  - Lexis
    - Employment Law Deskbook
      - §§ 15.01-15.03
  - Westlaw
    - Colorado Practice Series – Colorado Employment Law and Practice
      - § 5.22
  - Lexis or Westlaw
    - Practitioner’s Guide to Colorado Employment Law
      - § 1.3

Class #11 (10/30) – Tax Research I

- **Reading:**
  - Research Guide – Tax Research
    - [http://libguides.law.du.edu/tax_research](http://libguides.law.du.edu/tax_research)
  - Bloomberg Law/Bloomberg BNA – Tax Management Portfolio
      - I. Introduction
        - Skip Boolean and Natural Language Discussion
      - II. Legislation
        - Statutes
      - IV. The Judiciary
        - Introduction (Skip Holding & Dicta)
        - Researching Judicial Authorities
        - U.S. Courts of Appeal
        - U.S. District Courts – read Authoritative Weight
        - U.S. Tax Court
        - U.S. Court of Federal Claims
  - III. Administrative Pronouncements
    - Treasury Pronouncements

Class #12 (11/6) – Tax Research II

- **Readings:**
  - Bloomberg Law/Bloomberg BNA – Tax Management Portfolio
  - III. Administrative Pronouncements
    - IRS Pronouncements – Overview
    - Internal Revenue Bulletin
    - Written Determinations
      - Internal IRS Documents
        - Only read Internal Revenue Manual
Class #13 (11/13) – Foreign & International Research I

- **Readings:**
  - Print
      - Ch. 1 – Introduction and Basic Concepts
      - Ch. 4 – Treaties and International Agreements

Class #14 (11/20) – Foreign & International Research II

- **Readings:**
  - Europa World Plus
    - World Trade Organization
      - Members
      - Activities Overview
      - Trade in Services
      - Intellectual Property Rights
      - Legal Framework
      - Settlement of Disputes
      - Co-operation with Other Organizations
    - International Monetary Fund
      - Activities Overview
      - Special Drawing Rights
      - Quotas
      - Statistics
    - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
      - Members
      - Activities Overview
      - Trade and Agriculture
      - Financial and Enterprise Affairs
      - Taxation
      - Co-operation with Non-member Economies
    - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
      - Activities Overview
  - World Trade Organization
    - Review the World Trade Organization's page concerning its [dispute resolution mechanism](#)