

LAW 220: The Legal Profession

Units: 2

Fridays 12:00 to 1:40

Location: Musick Law Building 7

Instructors:

Dean Andrew Guzman

Professor Bob Rasmussen

Office: Musick Law Building 456

Office Hours: T 2:00 – 3:00

Contact Info: dean@law.usc.edu; rasmussen@law.usc.edu

Course Assistant:

Jackson Wyche

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic aspects of the legal profession. Law is ubiquitous; virtually everyone encounters the legal system. The food we buy, the health care we receive, the films we watch, the businesses we run, and countless other daily activities are all regulated in various ways by law. In short, law is the fundamental fabric of civil society. As such, law and lawyers are as diverse and as varied as is our society. Those contemplating a career as a lawyer should be cognizant of the varied types of ways in which lawyers interact with all aspects of our society. The lawyer fighting for justice for the victim of abuse has a vastly different experience from the lawyer representing a Fortune 500 company. Even those who are not planning on a legal career would benefit from knowing the roles that a lawyer can play in a variety of settings. Non-lawyers will inevitably work with lawyers, and by understanding the perspective of the lawyer, the non-lawyer can make. The class discussion will be assisted by leading practitioners in the area of law that is being discussed that day.

Learning Objectives

Students will learn the basic structure of the American legal system, the educational training that lawyers receive, and be exposed to various types of legal careers. Students will have a working knowledge of the economics of the legal profession, the types of roles that lawyers play in a variety of settings, the role of cooperation in the practice of law and the ethical responsibility of lawyers.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: None

Course Notes

The course will be offered on a credit/no credit basis.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

N/A

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

The bulk of the readings will be taken from current events, and will change from semester to semester. The materials will be distributed prior to each class.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

In addition to two exams during the semester, each student will complete at the end of the semester a 500 to 750 word analysis on some aspect of the legal profession.

Grading Breakdown

Each of the exams during the semester will be worth 20% of the final grade. Class participation will be worth 15%. The final paper will be worth 45%.

Assignment Submission Policy

The final paper should be submitted to Jackson Wyche in the Gould School of Law. The due date is a week after the last class session is to meet.

Additional Policies

Regular attendance at class is a mandatory requirement. Students will be removed from the class for excessive, unexcused, absences.

Note: Speakers are from Fall 2018 Class; the roster of speakers for Fall 2019 will be set in the summer

Date	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
August 30	Introduction to the course; goals and objectives Dean Andrew Guzman and Professor Bob Rasmussen		
September 7	Introduction to the American Legal System Dean Andrew Guzman and Professor Bob Rasmussen		
September 13	The Law School Experience: 3 Years at Hard Labor Professor Rasmussen; Gould students	Hawkins v McGee	
September 20	The Structure of the Legal Industry Dean Elizabeth Armour		Quiz
September 27	The Law School Experience: Getting In Dean David Kirschner	LSAC Handout	
October 4	Alyson Parker Department of Justice		
October 11	Emma Elizabeth Gonzalez Public Law Center		
October 18	DA Jackie Lacey Los Angeles County		
October 25	Congresswoman Nanette Barragán House of Representatives		
November 1	Mary Alice DiPietro Latham & Watkins LLP		Quiz
November 8	Karen Wong Milbank		
November 15	Sam Goldberg Lucidity		
November 22	Reginald Roberts & Justin Sanders Sanders Roberts LLP		
November 29	Thanksgiving Break		
December 6	Judge Kim Wardlaw Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals		Date: For the date and time of the final for this class, consult the USC <i>Schedule of Classes</i> at www.usc.edu/soc .

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/part-b>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and harassment are prohibited by the university. You are encouraged to report all incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX Office* <http://equity.usc.edu> and/or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://dps.usc.edu>. This is important for the health and safety of the whole USC community. Faculty and staff must report any information regarding an incident to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide outreach and information to the affected party. The sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> fully describes reporting options. Relationship and Sexual Violence Services <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp> provides 24/7 confidential support.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students