



**LAW 220: The Legal Profession**

**Units: 2**

**Fridays 12:00 to 1:40pm**

**Classroom:** Law 3

**Instructors:**

Dean Andrew Guzman

Professor Bob Rasmussen

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[rasmussen@law.usc.edu](mailto:rasmussen@law.usc.edu)

**Course Assistant:**

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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 effectively engage in those interactions. 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 Alexander Polonsky 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.

Date	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
January 13	Introduction to the Course; Goals and Objectives <i>Dean Guzman and Professor Rasmussen</i>		
January 20	Introduction to the American Legal System <i>Dean Guzman and Professor Rasmussen</i>		
January 27	The Law School Experience: 3 Years at Hard Labor <i>Dean Guzman and Professor Rasmussen; Gould students</i>	Hawkins v McGee	
February 3	David Kirschner <i>Dean of Admission &amp; Financial Aid, USC Gould</i>	LSAC Handout	Quiz
February 10	N/A		
February 17	Lindsay Toczylowski <i>Immigrant Defenders Law Center</i>		
February 24	Judge Kim Wardlaw <i>US Court of Appeals</i>		
March 3	Andres Cantero <i>Munger, Tolles &amp; Olson LLP</i>		
March 10	Aly Parker <i>California Department of Justice</i>		
March 17	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>		
March 24	David Tagihoff <i>Library Pictures International, LLC</i>		
March 31	N/A		
April 7	N/A		
April 14	Beong-Soo Kim <i>General Counsel, USC</i>		
April 21	N/A		
April 28	N/A		Date: For the date and time of the final for this class, consult the USC <i>Schedule of Classes</i> at <a href="http://www.usc.edu/soc">www.usc.edu/soc</a> .

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

### Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new,

shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call  
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086  
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298  
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776  
OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411  
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101  
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call  
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call  
Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)  
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)  
Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.