

Juvenile Law 447A

Fall Semester 2014

Honorable Maria D. Hernandez, Adjunct Professor

Tuesday Evenings 6:30-9:45 p.m.

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Office hours: Available prior to class or please contact me for an appointment

Required Text:

J. Eric Smithburn, *Cases and Materials in Juvenile Law (2nd Edition)*

Recommended Text:

Fajans & Falk, *Scholarly Writing for Law Students-Seminar Papers, Law Review Competition Papers*, (Fourth Edition, West Publishing)

Overview:

This course will address the topics within the juvenile justice system in scholarly fashion with a very strong emphasis on practical application in our justice system. Students will receive material and engage in discussions which will call upon the need to exercise their analytical skills as well as practical application of advocacy. The students will be required to synthesize these skills and produce a final writing project, all of which will prepare the student for the "every day" practice of law.

The class is designed to satisfy the WSU upper level writing requirement (ULWR) which is based on the guidelines established by the American Bar Association. You will work on the research paper and related exercises throughout the semester.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the dynamics of juvenile law in California and the interplay among justice partners.
2. To increase the ability to form and articulate legal arguments based on the facts of a case.
3. To understand the interplay amongst the statutory framework of juvenile law.
4. To understand the roles of the justice partners within and outside of the justice system.
5. To improve oral argument skills.
6. To utilize the analytical and advocacy skills in a project/legal research paper.

Class Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to be present and ready to participate at each class and to stay for the entire class. A late arrival or early departure may be treated as an absence. If you are aware of an upcoming absence or late arrival, please e-mail me prior to class.

A student who misses more than two class sessions will be withdrawn from the class pursuant to WSU's academic policy and the provisions set forth in the Student Handbook.

All students are expected to engage in class discussions. I will be providing guest speakers throughout the course which will afford a unique opportunity to engage with practitioners in the field. We will be fortunate to have a relatively small number of students which will allow this seminar to incorporate a great deal of participation and flexibility in attaining our objectives. Active participation will not only make the course more enjoyable but will also serve as an additional learning tool for practical application in the practice of law.

Please be sure to turn off or silence your cell phones during class and feel free to use your computer in the classroom in accordance with WSU computer use policy.

Course Grade:

Each student's grade will be based upon:

- Project/legal research paper (70% of grade)
- Classroom participation (10% of grade)
- Project/research related assignments (20% of grade). Please refer to the WSU Student Handbook describing Upper Level Writing (ULWR) requirements. The due date for the project/legal research paper will be designated at the end of the term.

******* EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY *******

Superior Court Commissioner Gary Bischoff, a distinguished WSU alumni and WSU "Hall of Fame" member, has extended an invitation to all Fall 2014 Juvenile Law students:

You are invited to visit Comm. Bischoff's courtroom at the Lamoreaux Justice Center (Department L-31; 341 The City Drive, Orange, CA) to observe what happens on a typical day in juvenile dependency court. You must attend a morning session and agree to maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings. Please arrive by 8:30 a.m., and check in with Comm. Bischoff's bailiff in Dept. L-31; let him know you are from Western State. Comm. Bischoff and the lawyers will make every effort to speak with you during the morning calendar call. To receive extra credit, you must stay for the entire session (ending by 12 noon at the latest) and write a two-page informal "essay" detailing your experience in court.

Course Assignments:

WEEK 1: Tuesday August 26

History and Philosophy of the Juvenile Justice System: pp. 1-20

Where is Juvenile Law Going? Download and read "Disproportionate Representation of Minority Youth in the Juvenile Justice System": <http://ssrn.com/author=1641671> by Prof. E. Jones (WSU)

WEEK 2: Tuesday September 2

DARK

WEEK 3: Tuesday September 9

Dependency Overview: pp 475-612

WEEK 4: Tuesday September 16

Dependency Cont. pp 613-745

Guest Speaker: Honorable Gary Bischoff

Remainder of course assignments will be provided during class