

Western State College of Law

CONTRACTS DRAFTING

Course # 423 A, CRN #4010

Summer semester 2015; classroom # ___; one credit

Fridays, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., see schedule below

Prof. Matthew E. Syken, Esq.

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Office hours: By appointment

Required text: *Tina L. Stark, Contracts Drafting: How and Why Lawyers Do What They Do – 2nd EDITION* (Aspen Publishers / Wolters Kluwer, 2014).

Course description / Learning Objectives: This course instructs the student, through written exercises, drafting assignments and real life examples, in applying the principles of contract law to planning, organizing, and preparing a written agreement that effectuates a client's intentions. It also provides instruction on issues of legal ethics related to transactions.

Prerequisites: Civil Procedure I & II, Contracts I & II Criminal Law, Professional Skills I & II, Torts I & II, Property I & II, and Professional Responsibility.

Class	Date	Topics	Read Textbook
1	June 5	Intro; Translating the Business Deal into Contract Concepts; Parts of a Contract	Chap. 1-5
2	June 12	Drafting Contract Parts: Preambles, Recitals, Words of Agreement; Definition Sections	Chap. 6-7
3	June 19	Drafting Contract Parts: Actions Sections, Representations and Warranties	Chap. 8-9
4	June 26	Drafting Contract Parts: Covenants; Conditions; Discretionary Authority; Declarations	Chap. 10-12
5	July 3	Drafting Contract Parts: Will vs. Shall; Review Chart; Endgame Provisions	Chap. 13-15
6	July 10	Drafting Contract Parts: Federal Provisions; Signatures; Organizing Contract Provisions	Chap. 16, 17, 26
7	July 17	Drafting Clearly, Unambiguously and Ethically; Review	Chap. 18-21, 30

Grades: Your grade will be based on (1) your statistically scaled score of all seven (7) weeks of the course, earning 10% of your grade each week for a total of seventy percent (70%), (2) your statistically scaled total score on take home written assignments (15%) and 3) in class participation (15%). However, I require attendance, preparation, and participation regardless, so your grade may be reduced by up to 10% if you do not prepare for, attend and actively participate in class at least on par with your peers. You will be dropped from the course if you miss more than the equivalent of two full hours of class sessions; missing any portion of any

session will adversely affect your grade. You must personally sign the attendances sheet at each class session for your attendance to qualify.

Homework assignments: I will hand out an assignment at the end of each class session, and the assignment is due at the beginning of the next class session.

Final examination: There is no final exam per se; rather your grade is cumulative based on all work over the term.

Disability Services Statement: Western State College of Law Provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The Disabilities Services Office assist qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at Western State College of Law. \

To seek reasonable accommodations, a student must contact Senior Assistant Dean Donna Espinoza, Students Services Directors and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Second Floor Student Services Suite. Dean Espinoza's phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; despinoza@wsulaw.edu. When seeking accommodations, a student should notify Dean Espinoza of her or his specific limitations and, if known, her or his specific requested accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor or professor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with Dean Espinoza to allow for time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please notify Dean Espinoza; or please notify Associate Dean of Students Charles Sheppard at csheppard@wsulaw.edu or (714) 459-1152. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law's "Policy against Discrimination and Harassment."