

**Criminal Law Externship Seminar 521B
FALL 2025**

Tuesdays 4:00 PM -5:40 PM

Professor Robert Molko

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DATE	SUBJECT/SPEAKER	ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS
1. August 12, 2025	Introduction; Course Requirements Motion Assignment #1 handed out	Introduction
2. August 19, 2025	Hardcopy and Electronic Research Review Librarian	Bring your laptop to class
3. August 26, 2025	Law & Motions and Appeals	
4. September 2, 2025	Jonathan Cherney Accident Reconstruction	
5. September 9, 2025		Motion #1 due
6. September 16, 2025		Journal #1 due Feedback on Motion # 1
7. September 23, 2025	Oral argument on Motion #1	1 st Written Assignment due
8. September 30, 2025	Motion Assignment #2 handed out	Midterm Evaluation due
9. October 7, 2025	DDA Bethel Cope Vega Child abuse	Journal #2 due
10. October 14, 2025		No class on October 21. Fall break week
11. October 28, 2025		
12. November 4, 2025		Motion #2 due No class on November 11 Feedback issued November 12
13. November 18, 2025	Oral argument of Motion #2	2 nd Written Assignment due Journal #3 due
14. November 25, 2025	Sr APD Denise Gragg The Death Penalty	Final evaluations due

- All required documents must be turned in as a **hardcopy** (i.e., no email) **directly to** Professor Molko, preferably at the beginning of class.
- Each student must register on the **LexisNexis webcourse Externship Fall 2025** asap. Each student is responsible for checking on the webcourse for any changes.

Credit Units Earned for Externships

1. Criminal Externships have Placements for which you earn **three pass-fail** credit units. You must work at the Placement for a minimum of 150 hours. This means you must perform approximately 12-15 hours per week for the Criminal Law Externship. Many students work more hours than required at their placements because they become very involved in the cases at the placement.
2. The Externship Seminar meets weekly for two hours and awards **two numerically graded** units for successful completion: Each student in the seminar is graded on two extensive written motions, classroom oral presentation of those motions, class participation, completion of his/her reflective journals, completion of the minimum required placement hours and the student must submit evidence or written work prepared during his/her placement as directed by the placement supervisor.

You must satisfactorily complete both the Placement Component and the Externship Seminar to be eligible to receive any credit for the program.

A. Expectations and Learning outcomes

It is expected that you will spend an average of four hours a week outside the classroom for this seminar. This will include the research, writing and preparation for oral argument on the two assigned motions, as well as the journal entries. All the work on the motions must be original as an individual **without any assistance from anyone else, and without copying or cutting and pasting any part of any motion from any brief bank** at your field placement or anywhere else. Your journal entries should include reflection of all your experiences including the ones at your field assignment, the speaker presentations and the tours (if we resume them).

Throughout the semester, you will be exposed to presentations on specialized areas of criminal law practice as well as related ethical issues. This class and the associated criminal externship placement experience will improve your research skills, your analytical skills, your writing skills and your oral presentation skills. You will be better prepared to actually practice criminal law by the end of this class.

B. Western State College of Law – Programmatic Learning Outcomes

Western State College of Law’s curriculum is designed so that every student achieves a level of competency prior to graduation in each of the eight Programmatic Learning Outcomes listed below:

(1) Doctrinal Knowledge

Students will demonstrate knowledge of substantive and procedural law in the core curriculum subjects, including Contracts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Torts, Real Property, Business Association, Evidence, Civil Procedures, Constitutional Law, Estates, Community Property, Remedies, and Professional Responsibility.

(2) Practice Skills

Students will demonstrate the development of other law practice skills. Each student’s chosen outcomes within this category will be varied based on the student’s particular interests, coursework and work experiences. They may include, but are not limited to, the following topics: oral presentation and advocacy; interviewing; counseling; client service and business development; negotiations, mediation, arbitration, or other alternate dispute resolution methods; advanced legal research and writing (excluding purely academic papers and the first four units earned in introductory first-year legal research and writing class); applied legal writing such as drafting contracts, pleadings, other legal instruments; law practice management or the use of technology in law practice; cultural competency; collaboration or project management; financial analysis, such as accounting, budgeting project management, and valuation; cost benefit analysis in administrative agencies; use of technology, data analyses, or predictive coding; business strategy and behavior; pre-trial preparation, fact investigation, such as discovery, e-discovery, motion practice, assessing evidence, or utilizing experts; trial practice; professional civility and applied ethics; a law clinic that includes a classroom component; or a legal externship that includes a classroom component.

(3) Legal Analysis

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the factual and legal issues implicated by a fact pattern and to appropriately use cases (including identifying the salient features of an appropriate precedent case, identifying legally significant similarities or differences between the precedent case and a fact pattern and explaining why those are legally significant) and rules (including the ability to connect legally significant facts in a fact pattern to the rule) to predict how a court would decide the issue. Students will also demonstrate the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule, and be able to evaluate how public policy can impact the application of a rule to the legal issue.

(4) Legal Research

Students will demonstrate the ability to locate relevant legal authority using a variety of book and electronic resources, and to properly cite to such legal authority.

(5) Communication

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate both orally and in writing in a manner appropriate to a particular task to effectively convey the author or speaker's ideas. This includes audience sensitivity in written and oral communication (the ability to adopt a tone, style and level of detail appropriate to the needs, knowledge and expertise of the audience); and written communication basic proficiency (the ability to use the conventions of grammar, spelling, punctuation, diction and usage appropriate to the task and sufficient to convey effectively the author's ideas).

(6) Advocacy of Legal Argument

Students will demonstrate the ability, in both oral and written formats, to evaluate the legal, economic and social strengths and weaknesses of a case and use case and statutory authority as well as public policy to persuade others. Making policy-based arguments includes the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule and their implications and be able to assert such appropriate arguments to support a particular application or distinction of a precedent case to a legal controversy or a particular resolution of the application of a rule to the legal controversy.

(7) Client Sensitivity and Cultural Competency

Students will demonstrate an awareness of clients' needs and goals, including a sensitivity to clients' background and circumstances (including, but not limited to, socio-economic, gender, race, ethnicity, educational, disability and/or religious background(s)), the ability to make decisions that reflect an appropriate focus on those needs and goals, and awareness that cultural issues may affect the relevance of facts and application of the law.

(8) Legal Ethics

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical issues in law practice contexts and make appropriate decisions to resolve such issues.

C. DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT:

Western State College of Law provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The Disabilities Services Office assists 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, Student Services Director and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Library Building, Room 275-B. 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 accommodations. Students who seek accommodations will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for 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 Dean Marisa Cianciarulo at mcianciarulo@wsulaw.edu or (714) 459-1168. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law's "Policy against Discrimination and Harassment."