UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW

Syllabus for Litigation Process
Law 817, Section 311
Fall Semester 2015

Professor:

Andrew T. Stephenson

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Available for Meetings with Students:

I am available to meet before or after class meetings on Tuesday mornings.

Class Schedule:

Tuesday Mornings: 9:00 am to 11:45 am, beginning August 25, 2015.

Required Course Materials (copies or ready access to):

- The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Annotated
- Maryland Rules of Civil Procedure Annotated
- Maryland Pattern Jury Instructions

Overview of the Course:

Litigation Process is a three-credit-hour course. It fulfills the upper-level advocacy requirement. Please refer to the description of the course in the Law School catalog.

The art of litigation involves far more than civil procedure, more than the rules of evidence, and more than the workings of the judicial system. It involves the sum of all of these in addition to the client service; the business considerations; and the attorney to attorney professionalism. Given that 98% of all civil actions filed in the U.S. are resolved prior to trial, the art of pre-trial litigation is, at least statistically, more important than trial itself. Indeed, an effectively litigated case should almost always obviate the need for trial (barring some extraneous factors which will also be explored during this course).

This course is intended to introduce students to the basic framework of litigation, including the related statutes and court rules that control the process, but also to the
practical considerations that impact the decision to pursue or to defend litigation. We will use sample case materials from the Mauet, Pretrial CD Rom and we will also use some actual cases from my own practice.

Prerequisites:

The Law School catalog states the prerequisites for this course. Only students who have successfully completed all of the first-year courses can register and receive credit for this course.

Withdrawal from the Course:

Because this is an upper-level course with limited enrollment, students cannot withdraw from it without penalty after the end of the first week of classes.

Grading:

Grades for this course will be based on in-class quizzes involving knowledge of and problem-solving based on procedural statutes and court rules (20%); drafting assignments calling for the preparation of pleadings, papers related to discovery matters, motions, and litigation summaries (50%); and the quality of participation in class discussions and exercises (30%). There is no final examination.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

A schedule of topics, reading assignments, quizzes, and drafting assignments will be provided at the first class meeting. The schedule is also posted on the TWEN website for this course.

Delay or Cancellation of Class:

If the instructor is going to be late for or need to cancel a particular class meeting, an effort will be made to contact students ahead of time, and a notice will also be posted in the classroom or on the door to it. If classes are not held at the Law School because of weather conditions or some other emergency, there will be an announcement of and information about the closing on the University of Baltimore website, the University's "Snow Closing Line" (410-837-4201), and various media outlets.

Course and Classroom Policies:

In accordance with Law School policy, regular and timely attendance is required. More than three (3) absences will require withdrawal from the course with a grade of "WA" or (under certain circumstances) a grade of "WF." A student who has a compelling medical or personal reason for missing a substantial number of classes should consult with the Dean's Office.
Arriving for a class meeting late or leaving early is disruptive and therefore unacceptable; when exceptional circumstances occur, a student should provide the instructor with an explanation for his or her lateness or let the instructor know ahead of time that he or she needs to arrive late or leave early on a particular day.

All cellphones are to be turned off during class. Laptop computers can be used in class, but only for class-related purposes.