Course: LAW Course Number 837  
Section Number 511

Instructor: NAME: Adeen Postar 
CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Office: Room 829, Law Library  
Email: apostar@ubalt.edu  
Office Phone: 410-837-4562  
Home Phone: 301-564-4516  
Cell Phone: 301-651-6440

Office Hours: Drop In (you are strongly advised to email me to make an appointment), Room 829

Location: Room 912, Law Library
Time: Thursday 10:30 to 12:20

Course Description:
This workshop offers an in-depth look at research methods and resources. Topics include: designing a research strategy; research in judicial, legislative and executive materials, both federal and state; extensive coverage of secondary and non-legal resources. Students will produce a comprehensive research memorandum

Course Materials: Please see the syllabus for specific readings. There is no assigned text for this class.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Identify legal research sources specific to topical areas of law.
2. Locate primary and secondary legal research sources in print and online formats.
3. Evaluate the relative authority and value of these sources.
4. Develop an efficient research strategy that takes into account available information sources and the financial constraints of the client.
5. Analyze a complex legal issue or topic using appropriate primary and secondary legal authority.

Your grade is based on the following criteria:

Pathfinder 50%  
Class Presentation of the Pathfinder 10%  
In-depth Research Problem 25%  
Attendance and Participation 15%

There are several CALI Lessons required throughout the class. Completion of these lessons goes towards the time and attendance portion of your grade, as do in-class assignments, including the Agency Wonderland presentation and in-class exercises. Please post your CALI completion certificates to the appropriate place on the class TWEN webpage.
Course Expectations:
This course will provide you with techniques and skills for research that are essential to legal practice, clerking, Research Assistant assignments, and research for law review notes, comments and seminar papers. The nature of the topic means that it will be a hands-on and experiential learning class; it may not be appropriate for you if you prefer a class structured on class readings and a final exam. We will use problems, exercises, presentations and a written pathfinder to enhance your knowledge of the process of legal research. We will explore many topical areas of legal practice in detail, and identify the best, most authoritative and most cost-effective research sources and strategies appropriate to the practice area.

Each student must complete a pathfinder, which is the primary and core work for this class. The pathfinder is a detailed, annotated analysis of the primary and secondary research resources available for your topic and the best strategies for researching the topic. With input from Professor Postar, you can write the pathfinder on the topic of your choice. Your final grade will be determined by your grade on the pathfinder, its’ presentation, and class participation through the completion of problems, exercises, readings and a diagnostic quiz. There is a 15 page minimum length requirement for the pathfinder. Students may opt to write the pathfinder to satisfy their upper level writing requirement; to do so requires a paper that is at least 25 pages in length, with footnotes and hold regular meetings with Professor Postar. We will discuss the pathfinder at length at the first class meeting. Examples of successful pathfinders are available on reserve at the circulation desk and a detailed explanation and guide for writing the pathfinder is available on the class TWEN webpage.

Attendance:
Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. A student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences (generally 20% of class sessions) as illustrated below may be compelled to withdraw from the course, or may be barred from sitting for the final exam. Students who are forced to withdraw for exceeding the allowed absences may receive a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence). This policy is consistent with American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Semester Hours</th>
<th>Meetings Per Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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Course Website: This course has a TWEN page that links to this syllabus, announcements, the class assignments, and other class materials. You are responsible for self-enrolling in the TWEN page and for checking it regularly for course information.

Computers:
Students must use laptop computers for class related purposes.

Class Cancellation:
In the event of a class cancellation, notices will be sent to you via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, visit the University of Baltimore web site or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

Academic Integrity:
Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, misuse of materials, inappropriate communication about exams, use
of unauthorized materials and technology, misrepresentation of any academic matter, including attendance, and
impeding the Honor Code process. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is
available at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:
The University of Baltimore’s Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws
prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the
university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual
misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related
experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB’s nondiscrimination policies can be
found at: http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix.

Disability Policy:
If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact
Leslie Metzger, Director of Student Services, at 410-837-5623 or lmetzger@ubalt.edu.

Class 1: Thursday, August 25, 2016
Introduction to the Course

Topics Covered

- CALI at http://www.cali.org | Password BALTUVstu14
- What is a pathfinder?
- Using the pathfinder to satisfy your upper level writing requirement
- UB Law Library resources
- Basic Legal Research Skills Preview – Presentation

Required Readings

Please scan:

visited July 20, 2016).

J.D.S. Armstrong & Christopher Knott, Advanced Legal Research: Getting Started, in WHERE THE LAW
Is; AN INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH, 4th ed. (West 2013). Reading Room KF 240
.A76 2013

(West 2013). Reading Room KF 240 .C54 2013

Assignments Given

Diagnostic Exam | Due 6 pm on August 30 | Upload to Twen

Choose a Pathfinder Topic | Due 6 pm on September 15 | Upload to Pathfinder Topic Dropbox file on
TWEN
Class 2: Thursday, September 1, 2016

**Electronic Boot Camp I**

**Topics Covered**

- Review results of diagnostic test
- Advanced features of Google and Yahoo
- How to evaluate websites
- Search logic & search engine
- So Many Sites in 60 Minutes - Presentation

**Required Readings**


**Assignments Given**

CALI Lesson: *Evaluating Websites LWR 39* | Due September 8 – upload to TWEN

Class 3: Thursday, September 8

**Electronic Boot Camp II**

**Assignments Due**

Cali Lesson: *Evaluating Websites LWR 39*

**Topics Covered**

**Electronic Boot Camp II**

**Guest Speakers:** Lexis Advance ([Elizabeth Ferrick](http://jolt.richmond.edu/?m=201207)) and Westlaw ([Kyla Stone](http://jolt.richmond.edu/?m=201207))

**Required Readings**


Carole A. Levitt JD, MLS and Mark Rosch, Are all Citator Services Created Equal? A Comparison of Google Scholar, Fastcase, Casemaker, LexisNexis, WestlawNext, and Bloomberg (2012), available at
Class 4: Thursday, September 15

Electronic Boot Camp III

Assignments Due

Pathfinder Topic (One page description – upload to TWEN) by 6 pm

Topics Covered

- BloombergBNA. Liana Rizzi, Guest Speaker
- Fastcase
- CaseText
- Ravel

Required Readings


Assignments Given

- Cali Lesson: Researching Federal Legislative History (LWR 14) | Due September 22
- Cali Lesson: Federal Legislative History Research - Compiled Legislative History (LR41) | Due September 22
- Cali Lesson: Reading Legislative History (LR137) Due September 22

Class 5: Thursday, September 22

General Approaches to Research Strategies/Legislation and Statutory Research

Assignments Due

- Cali Lesson: Federal Legislative History Research - Compiled Legislative History (LR41)
Cali Lesson: *Researching Federal Legislative History* (LWR 14)

Cali Lesson: *Reading Legislative History* (LR137)

### Topics Covered

- Research strategies
- Cost effective/efficient research
- Legislative History - Presentation
- Interpreting Statutes
- In-class exercise

### Required Readings


### Assignments Given

**Agency Wonderland Project & Presentation** | Due September 29

*See TWEN for further information on this 5 minute in-class presentation*

### Class 6: Thursday, September 29

#### Administrative Law

**Assignments Due**

**Agency Wonderland Project & Presentation - 5 minutes**

### Topics Covered

- Formal and Informal Rulemaking – understanding the process and locating Federal documents
- Executive publications
- State administrative documents and municipal ordinances research

### Required Readings

Assignments Given

N/A

Class 7: Thursday, October 6

Court Rules & Litigation Materials

Assignments Due

N/A

Topics Covered

- Court Rules – Presentation
- Valuation/Jury Practice – Presentation
- Litigation Resources – Presentation
- In-Class Exercise

Required Readings


Assignments Given

Cali Lesson: **Company Research (LWR 17)** | Due October 13

**Class 8: Thursday, October 13**

**Legal Research for Practice – Business Law**

Assignments Due

Cali Lesson: **Company Research (LWR 17)**

**Topics Covered**

- Company Information
- Securities - Presentation
- Business Intelligence - Presentation
- Finding People - Presentation

**Required Readings**


**Assignments Given**

**In-Depth Research Problem | Due 6 pm October 27**

*Further information on this assignment is posted on the class TWEN webpage*

**Class 9: Thursday, October 20**

**In-Class Research Group Exercises & Discussion of Research Strategies**

**Assignments Due**

None

**Class 10: Thursday, October 27**

**Assignments Due**

**In-Depth Research Problem**
Foreign and International Law Research

Guest Lecturer: Harvey Morrell, Associate Law Librarian for Collections and Database Services

Topics Covered
- Foreign Law Research
- Treaty Research
- Human Rights

Suggested Readings


Assignments Given

*Cali Lesson: Customary International Law (LR 56)* Due November 3

Class 11: Thursday, November 3
Federal Tax & Intellectual Property Law

Assignments Due

Cali Lesson: Customary International Law (LR 56)

Pathfinder Presentation Sign Up

Topics Covered

Federal tax research – Presentation

Intellectual property – Presentation  Guest Speaker: Savanna Nolan, Digital Reference Librarian

Required Readings


Suggested Readings


Assignments Given

Cali Lesson: *Maryland Secondary Sources – LR 138*  Due November 10

Class 12: Thursday, November 10

Maryland Legal Research – General Approaches and Specialized Materials

Assignments Due

Cali Lesson: *Maryland Secondary Sources – LR 138*

DRAFT of the Pathfinder – Required if you are writing for your ULWR

Guest Lecturer: David Matchen, Head of Circulation and Reference Librarian
Topics Covered

- **Maryland legal materials**

Required Readings


Assignments Given

Class pathfinder presentations begin November 10 (next week)

Class 13: Thursday, November 17

Class Pathfinder Presentations

Thursday, December 8

**PATHFINDERS DUE – Upload to TWEN by 6 PM**