

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW

Levy/Evidence/Spring 2020 (Law 651.412)

SYLLABUS

Required Texts:	George Fisher, EVIDENCE (3 rd ed.) (Foundation Press). George Fisher, STATUTORY AND CASE SUPPLEMENT TO FISHER'S EVIDENCE 3 RD (2018-2019) (Foundation Press).
Recommended Texts:	Imwinkelried, EVIDENTIARY FOUNDATIONS (LexisNexis 10th ed.) or Sandler & Archibald, MODEL WITNESS EXAMINATIONS (ABA 4th ed.).
Class meets:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm. Room assignment available through MyUB.
Contact info and Office hours:	By appointment. Please email me (adl@browngold.com) and copy my legal assistant, Elizabeth Suero (es@browngold.com) (when emailing, best to reference "Evidence" in subject line). Office phone number is 410-962-1030.
Course Description:	A generic description of this course can be found at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/jd-program/courseofferings/index.cfm . More specifically, this course is a study of the rules governing proof in civil and criminal trials. We will focus primarily on the Federal Rules of Evidence, with occasional reference to the Maryland Rules of Evidence, and concentrate on five general areas: (1) relevance and unfair prejudice; (2) witness credibility; (3) hearsay; (4) expert opinion and scientific proof; and (5) privilege.
Student Learning Outcome Goals:	(1) To provide you with a thorough understanding of the principal rules of evidence, including an appreciation of their theoretical underpinnings and the many trade-offs they reflect between accurate fact-finding and other desirable goals. (2) While not a trial practice course in its own right, it will prepare you for trial practice and clinical courses. (3) The study of Evidence also provides a rich opportunity to develop your abilities to read, listen, and think critically and to express oneself clearly and persuasively – the things that make lawyers, well, lawyers.
Exam:	One final, consisting of multiple choice/short answer. Its goal will be to test whether you have done the reading, attended class, and developed the ability to apply the class and reading material competently and critically (100%).

<p>Attendance and Preparation:</p>	<p>The study of the law of Evidence is cumulative. Understanding the material as the semester progresses requires a thorough understanding of the earlier material. It follows that you must come to class and – equally important – come to class prepared. The assigned readings are an integral part of the course and if you do not do the reading prior to class you put an unreasonable burden on yourself and the instructor. If you must miss class due to illness or a genuinely unavoidable conflict, use your best efforts to review the tape of the class you missed (if available) or a classmate’s notes prior to the next class.</p>
<p>ABA Standards for Attendance:</p>	<p>Per American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools (“ABA-SLS”), 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 set forth 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). For this three-credit course that meets twice weekly the limit of permitted absences for the semester is five. This policy is consistent with ABA-SLS.</p>
<p>TWEN:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Computers:</p>	<p>Students may use computers in class only to take notes and access course materials.</p>
<p>Class Cancellation:</p>	<p>If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email. If there is inclement weather, students should 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.</p>
<p>Academic Integrity:</p>	<p>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 the School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; misuse of library materials; use of another’s book or study materials without consent; unapproved multiple submissions; material misrepresentation of one’s academic history or standing; misrepresentation of any academic matter; intentionally giving another student false or inaccurate information about class requirements; inappropriate discussion of exams; and misrepresenting or falsifying class attendance reports. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at https://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/index.cfm.</p>

<p>Course Evaluations:</p>	<p>It is a requirement of this course that students complete a course evaluation. The evaluation will be available later in the semester and is entirely anonymous. Faculty members will not have access to the feedback provided on course evaluations until after all grades are submitted.</p>
<p>Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Disability Policy:</p>	<p>If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an accommodation for academic programs, exams, or access to the University’s facilities, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs at ublawacadaff@ubalt.edu or (410) 837-4468.</p>
<p>Assignments:</p>	<p>An Assignment List will be posted on TWEN.</p>