UMKC School of Law Fall Semester 2010

COURSE NUMBER AND NAME: Law 8773 T, Environmental and Toxic Torts

PROFESSOR: Thompson

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): Torts I

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S): None

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: (Provide the specific method of determining a student’s grade and % allocation for each method)

   In class participation – 10%
   Objective-style exam (multiple choice, short answer) - 40%
   Group Project (paper) based on Simulation - 50%

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

   This course explores advanced tort concepts in the context of tort claims for environmental and toxic contamination. Although we use a casebook, we will also be using materials from A Civil Action and will devote a portion of the course to a simulation project.

COURSE CONTENT: (and/or attach outline or syllabus)

   Topics will include such things as trespass, nuisance, strict liability, remedies, causation, and defenses. We will also consider the interaction between common law theories and statutory claims under CERCLA and Workers Compensation systems.

COURSE BOOK(S): Boston & Madden, Law of Environmental and Toxic Torts (3rd ed.)
   Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

   This course would be very useful for anyone who intends to practice personal injury law, environmental law, or to do insurance defense work. In addition, the environmental issues may be of interest to those in general practice or doing transaction work, as environmental and toxic tort claims are becoming increasingly common in other areas as well.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION PREPARATION:

   The advanced torts concept can be helpful for the bar examination, and occasionally the bar exam may raise specific environmental or toxic tort questions.