UMKC School of Law Fall Semester 2006

COURSE NAME: Governmental and Legal Aspects of Education

COURSE NUMBER: Law 870R

PROFESSOR: Weddle

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE BOOKS: TBA

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Assessment will be based upon the following components:

20% -- Two to three reaction papers
40% -- 3000-word topical or position paper
30% -- Three to five advice letters/ action plan memoranda
10% -- Participation

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the major legal doctrines that affect K-12 schools, as well as the policies that underlie or are changing those doctrines. Students should gain a working understanding of the impact of federal and state law on the operation of schools, the rights and responsibilities of teachers and administrators, and the rights of the students who attend those schools.

COURSE CONTENT:

SCHOOLS AND THE STATE
  Compulsory Attendance
  Religion in the Schools
  Use of Facilities
  Aid to Nonpublic Schools
  School Fees
  Health Services

SCHOOL FINANCE AND CHOICE ISSUES
  School Finance Reform Choice
  Choice
STUDENTS AND THE LAW
   Freedom of Expression
   Suspension, Expulsion, Disciplinary Transfer
   Corporal Punishment
   Search of Students and Lockers
   Student Appearance
   Pregnancy, Parenthood, and Marriage
   Participation in Extra Curricular Activities
   School Punishment for Out-of-School Offenses

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE LAW
   The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
   Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
   The Americans with Disabilities Act

TEACHERS AND THE LAW
   Non-renewal and Dismissal
   Freedom of Expression
      Academic Freedom
   Drug Testing
   Personal Appearance
   Teacher as Exemplar

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

   Education is one of the largest endeavors of any state government and has
   received increasing attention of the federal government over the past forty years. As a
   result, legal issues affecting schools are prevalent and important in the nation and are
   very likely to cross the desks of lawyers working in a host of settings, including general
   practice.