WINTER 2006 ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION
UMKC School of Law

COURSE NAME: Entrepreneurship and New Venture Creation

COURSE NUMBER: Law 757N (Note: course will be jointly-taught with a Bloch School faculty member; and is listed by Bloch School as BMA 545)

PROFESSORS: Luppino (Law); Rychlewski (Bloch/Institute for Entrepreneurship)

ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY:  Law student enrollment will require permission of Professor Luppino. Preference will generally be given to (1) law students who have taken Business Planning (Law #757) or have other credentials involving business planning experience or work with technology commercialization and (2) students pursuing the JD/M.B.A. joint degree (though the latter is certainly not a prerequisite). At the current time, we anticipate space for 12 law students, but that number could be higher depending on level of enrollment from Bloch or other graduate schools.

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Business Organizations and Federal Tax

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Business Planning and any other business law courses (such as any of the electives listed for the Business & Entrepreneurial Law Emphasis)

COURSE BOOKS: The main text will be The Intentional Entrepreneur: Bringing Technology and Engineering to the Real New Economy by David Bodde (published by M.E. Sharpe). There will be a variety of additional materials, including materials on various areas of tax, securities, unfair competition and intellectual property law to be prepared or selected by Law School faculty.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: The Course grade will be based upon a series of writing assignments and in class presentations, some of which will involve team presentations with students from other graduate schools (primarily business and engineering).

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This one-semester course introduces interdisciplinary teams of graduate students from business, law, computer science, bioinformatics, sciences, engineering, and other disciplines to the skills needed and knowledge required for building successful, high-value enterprises with technology based intellectual property. The teaching techniques will involve joint instruction by Professors Luppino and Rychlewski; guest speakers on selected topics; team projects with teams comprised of students from various disciplines; and oral and written team presentations of business plans which include consideration of pertinent legal issues in new venture creation. From the law student perspective, the course will also involve individual presentations on selected legal issues by law students to the entire class, designed to hone the communication skills of our students.

COURSE CONTENT: After application of the teaching/learning techniques described under “Summary Description of the Course” above, students should have accomplished the following: (i) learned the basics of entrepreneurship within the context of the unique advantages and challenges posed by advanced technology; (ii) gained skills in the analysis of business cases and related legal issues; (iii) enhanced your ability to communicate concisely and persuasively both orally and in writing; (iv) gained experience working in diverse, multi-disciplinary teams; (v) worked with business and perhaps other graduate-level students in developing a business model for a venture, along with a complete formal business plan, which includes consideration of pertinent legal issues, to support the business venture model; and (vi) collaborated in the presentation of the completed business plan in a UMKC Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation sponsored business plan competition.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: The Course will be particularly relevant to any student who might aspire to serve as legal counsel to entrepreneurs involved with technology commercialization or to themselves become such entrepreneurs. From a broader perspective, the Course will also be relevant to any law student who envisions working in practice with teams of professionals from varied disciplines, in that it will illustrate the need to explore and understand the vocabulary, problem-solving approaches and varied perspectives of non-lawyers involved in collaborative projects. Note that the Course will be listed as one of the “electives” for our Business & Entrepreneurial Law Emphasis.