WINTER/Spring 2007 Elective Course Information UMKC School of Law

Course Name: Biotechnology Torts

Course Number: 815T

Professor: Holman

Essential Prerequisites: Torts

Desirable Prerequisites: N/A

Course Books: Noah and Noah, Law, Medicine & Medical Technology, Foundation Press (2002), and supplementary materials to be provided by instructor.

Method of Grading & Appraisal of Student for Grade: Final exam and participation in class discussions and exercises

Summary Description of Course: This course focuses on tort law issues that arise from the development and use of biotechnology products, particularly drugs and medical devices. These include: informed consent to the human experimentation that is part of the pre-sale approval of new drugs and devices; liability for negligence in design, manufacture, and labeling; products liability; learned intermediary defenses and how these are modified by direct to public marketing; the federal preemption of state law; and the regulation of Internet commerce in controlled drugs and devices. There will also be a discussion of the public policy and ethical issues posed by biotechnology liability, such as effects on the availability and cost of biotechnology products.

Course Content: See Summary Description

Relevancy of Course for Career Purposes: The course will introduce and/or reinforce a number of advanced concepts relating to torts, which will be valuable to those pursuing a career in that area of the law. The focus on biotechnology and the life sciences will be of particular relevance for a number of careers, including, for example, those involving administrative or regulatory law, business or corporate law, or technology law.