UMKC SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION FALL 2008

COURSE NAME: Seminar in Famous Trials

COURSE NUMBER: 8735

PROFESSOR: Douglas O. Linder

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: NONE

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE BOOKS:

COURSE MATERIAL (INCLUDING A COURSE SYLLABUS) ARE POSTED ON A WEBSITE. SEE: WWW.UMKC.EDU/FAMOUSTRAILS.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

The grade for the seminar will be based both on an in-class objective test and a paper.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Each session in this seminar we will examine a famous American or international trial. The trials, which vary with each offering of the course, include a mix of nineteenth and twentieth century trials. Among the trials likely to be considered are the Scopes (“Monkey”) trial, the “Scottsboro Boys” trial, the O. J. Simpson trial, and the Nuremberg trials. Many dimensions of each trial will be explored.

COURSE CONTENT:

We will discuss tactical and ethical decisions faced by attorneys, the social and legal significance of trials, and the historical context in which the trials arose.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

This course may be of special interest to persons desiring to practice Criminal Law.

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

This course is of only incidental relevance to the Bar Examination.