UMKC SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION FALL 2009

COURSE NAME: Seminar in Famous Trials

COURSE NUMBER: 8735

PROFESSOR: Douglas O. Linder

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: NONE

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE BOOKS:

COURSE MATERIALS (INCLUDING A COURSE SYLLABUS) ARE POSTED ON WEBSITE. SEE: http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm

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 twentieth-century trial.

Among the trials likely to be considered are the Scopes (“Monkey”) trial, the “Scottsboro Boys” trial, the O. J. Simpson trial, the "Mississippi Burning" 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 or teach legal history courses.

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

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