COURSE NAME: Complex Litigation: Class Actions

COURSE NUMBER: Law 8706

PROFESSOR: Steve Wolfe

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Civil Procedure I


Supplemental materials will also be assigned and distributed via TWEN.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Final Exam and Class Participation

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: An examination of class actions in federal courts.

COURSE CONTENT: This course focuses on class action litigation in federal court. To that end, most of the class is spent understanding how to apply – and how to defend against the application of – Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Class Action Fairness Act will also be discussed. Cases examined include tobacco, securities fraud, employment discrimination, and consumer cases. Examples will be drawn from actual litigation conducted in the Western District of Missouri. In addition, depending on the pace of the litigation and any possible conflict issues, exercises will be derived from a case currently pending in that court.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: In the words of my predecessor, “This is a critical course for anyone considering a career in high-stakes civil litigation.”

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR BAR EXAM: I have been told this course will be helpful for the Federal Civil Procedure component of the Missouri Bar Exam. I can neither confirm nor dispute this assessment.