UMKC SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION Spring 2008

COURSE NAME: Advanced Legal Writing: Litigation Drafting

CATALOGUE NUMBER: 8707C

PROFESSOR: Connor

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S):
Civil Procedure I & II, Introduction to Law I & II

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S):

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Out-of-class writing assignments (6) 85%
In-class work 15% (pass/fail)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
This course emphasizes the skills and techniques employed in drafting various litigation documents, including petitions, answers and counterclaims, discovery, dispositive motions, trial briefs, jury instructions and settlement agreements. Class time is spent discussing, writing and editing various litigation documents, with out-of-class time spent writing and drafting graded litigation documents. The class will meet in one two-hour block session per week. Regular individual conferences will be held to review drafts and critique exercises.

COURSE BOOK(S):
Required:
Beyond the Basics by Mary Barnard Ray and Barbara J. Cox

Recommended:
Legal Writing: Getting It Right and Getting It Written by Mary Barnard Ray and Jill Ramsfield
Plain English for Lawyers by Richard Wydick
Plain and Accurate Style in Court Papers by Irwin Alterman
A Uniform System of Citation (18th ed.)
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
This course provides practical, hands-on experience in drafting many of the documents most litigation attorneys are asked to prepare in their first years of practice.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION:
Because this class focuses on litigation drafting, civil procedure will become more meaningful. In addition, the improved writing skills will transfer to the essay and practical skills portions of the Bar Exam.