UMKC School of Law ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION
MiniTerm Spring 2009

COURSE NAME: Advanced Legal Research – Transactional Law
COURSE NUMBER: 8643L

PROFESSOR: Paul D. Callister

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Intro to Law

COURSE BOOKS: None. Students will use library materials and information services

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

- Bibliographic Analysis Assignments and other Exercises--15%. These assignments are designed to help students see patterns in the proper use, function and place of various legal research resources common to transactional research.
- Research Problems (4)—45%. Research problems derived from practice and experience will be used to help students identify problem types, apply the steps in the research process, and gain confidence in their ability to practice law.
- Research Pathfinder and Presentation—40%. Students must prepare and present an annotated guide (called a pathfinder), which is designed to walk other attorneys or users through the process of research in a specific legal topic or area of the law and provided annotated guidance to the various resources available on the topic. It is not simply an unannotated bibliography. The guide may be prepared in conjunction with a paper written (outside of the course) for research and writing credit.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The course will refresh and refine research skills, help students to think systemically about legal research, and familiarize students with applicable resources used in transactional law. As the final project, students will have the opportunity to develop an in-depth research “path finder” or guide for an approved topic of their own choosing, which for students pursuing credit for an Area of Emphasis, must be approved by their Area of Emphasis Advisor.

COURSE CONTENT:

Sample research topics may include transaction subjects from tax, retirement plans and pensions, securities, business organizations, purchasing and sale of businesses, licensing, employee compensation and benefits, estate planning, real estate, labor and competitive business intelligence. Research tools will include major transactional looseleaf services and treatises, business form books, online services (such as provided by CCH, RIA, and BNA), government securities filing databases, regulatory web sites and services, and competitive business intelligence and industry resources.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

This class prepares students who wish to focus on transactional law (including students interested in either Business and Entrepreneurial Law or Urban, Land Use and Environmental Law as an Area of Emphasis). However, currently, the course does not count toward meeting the stated requirements for either of these Areas of Emphasis.