COURSE NAME: Post-Conviction Remedies

COURSE NUMBER: Law 8822

PROFESSOR: Sean O’Brien

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Criminal Procedure 1 & 2

COURSE BOOKS: None; course materials will consist of cases, articles and other materials that are available online or copies will be provided.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Letter grade based on final examination. Consideration may be given to class participation.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This course will discuss federal and state remedies available to prisoners for the purpose of challenging a conviction or sentence. It will examine the history and evolution of the Writ of Habeas Corpus and its role in the correction of wrongful convictions on both the federal and state level.

COURSE CONTENT: A syllabus will be posted on Professor O’Brien’s faculty web page when it is available. http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/OBrienlinks.htm The course will discuss the historical development of the Great Writ as a procedure for the enforcement of constitutional, civil and human rights of state and federal prisoners, and follow the parallel development of state post-conviction processes. The importance of the Writ in the modern era will include examination of cases involving capital punishment and potentially innocent prisoners.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: This course will be helpful for anyone planning to practice in criminal law, and would be especially helpful for students who plan to work with the Innocence Project.