COURSE NAME: Applied Federal Criminal Procedure & Evidence

COURSE NUMBER: Law 8636A

PROFESSOR: Judge Robert E. Larsen and Rebecca Sourk

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Evidence
Criminal Procedure I

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: n/a

COURSE BOOKS: Navigating the Federal Trial, Robert E. Larsen
Federal Criminal Code & Rules (2009), West
Disc that will be provided during first class session

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Students will be graded on out-of-class writing assignments.

SUMMARY OF COURSE:

A practical skills course involving consideration and application of the rules of criminal procedure and evidence to a criminal case in federal court, including, but not limited to rules dealing with charging documents; bond & detention; discovery; suppression motions; plea bargains, guilty pleas and sentencing; pretrial preparation; voir dire; evidentiary foundations; opinion testimony; and character evidence.

COURSE CONTENT:

This class will be divided into two segments. The first half of the semester will be an academic study of the way in which a federal criminal case progresses. In addition to the information learned through the assigned reading, in-class discussions, and guest lectures from federal practitioners, students will have the opportunity to draft pleadings and observe relevant court proceedings. The second half of the semester will be more of a “hands-on” approach devoted to developing students' practical skills. Students will learn the practical aspects involved in processing a criminal case and will have the opportunity to practice these techniques in simulated courtroom exercises.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

Although this course focuses on criminal law, it has relevance for any student interested in litigation. The skills and techniques learned will serve the student who wants to (1) learn to write effectively and persuasively for a judicial audience and (2) gain a better understanding of how to apply evidentiary rules in courtroom proceedings.