COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME:
Law 638R - Entrepreneurial Lawyering: Solo & Small Firm Practice

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): Limited enrollment. Limited to 25 students. Students desiring to take the course must write a personal statement describing their interest in learning about the legal and practical aspects of solo and small firm practice and provide it to Professor Luppino as an application for registration. Preference is given to qualified 2Ls (who will be 3Ls in Fall 2010). In addition to attendance at the five class sessions to be held at the Law School (5:30PM-8:30PM) on May 17, May 24, June 7, June 14 and June 21, the course requires attendance at the Missouri Bar Solo and Small Firm Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks June 10-12. Grant/scholarship funds will be available to cover each student's costs of attending the Bar Conference.

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE (S): N/A

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Each student's course grade will be based on (1) in-class assignments/class participation, (2) out-of-class assignments (including a journal and a written report on one of the workshop sessions attended at the Bar Conference) and (3) a final paper (in the nature of a business plan for a solo or small law firm). The final paper will be due July 16.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: The course will be team-taught by Dean Suni and Professor Luppino, and will focus on law practice management for solo and small firms. Topics addressed will include, among others, selection and implementation of organizational structure; firm management; fee setting and budgeting; accepting (or declining) engagements; compensation issues; advertising; networking with practitioners in specialty areas; and ethical issues relating to all such topics.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: Students will not be required to purchase any materials for this course. Reading assignments will be posted on a TWEN site from which most of the course materials can be accessed electronically; other course materials will be handed out in paper form by the instructors.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: Highly relevant for students interested in the possibility of practicing in a solo or small law firm setting.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION: N/A per se, but will involve review of many legal principles that are covered on a bar exam.