

UMKC School of Law ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION Fall 2009

COURSE NAME: Children in the Law

COURSE NUMBER: LAW 8733

PROFESSOR: Kisthardt

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Family Law

COURSE BOOKS: Children and the Law

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Paper 50%, Presentation 20%, Midterm Exam 30%

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: In this seminar we will examine the ways in which the legal system treats children differently than adults and the justifications for such treatment. With these differences in mind we will focus on the central question of who should make decisions for the child. An attempt will be made to ascertain the respective decisional authority that should be granted to parents, children and the state in various contexts. We will also discuss the various roles that attorneys can assume in "representing" children.

COURSE CONTENT: Areas of discussion include education, privacy rights of minors, medical decision making for children, abuse & neglect and adoption.

MATERIALS: Abrams & Ramsey, Children in the Law: Doctrine and Practice, 3rd ed., Thomson/West, 2007 ISBN#/978-0-314-16951-8

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: Students who practice in Jackson County are subject to mandatory appointment in juvenile cases.