

To: Incoming Law Students Section 3  
From: Professor Farina M. Barth  
Date: August 1, 2022  
Re: Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing I

Welcome to the University at Buffalo School of Law. Starting law school is a huge accomplishment! Take a deep breath and get yourself organized. I look forward to meeting you all on Tuesday, August 23, for our first class of Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing I (“LAWR I”). This memorandum outlines your responsibilities before our first class.

### **I. Purchase the Required Class Textbooks.**

There are three required textbooks for LAWR I:

1. Christine Coughlin, et al., A Lawyer Writes (3d ed. 2018).
2. Richard Wydick, Plain English for Lawyers (6th ed. 2019).
3. The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st ed. 2020).

Please be careful when purchasing textbooks to ensure you have the correct editions. You may purchase print or digital copies. We will also be using A Lawyer Writes and The Bluebook in LAWR II. If you are purchasing a digital copy of The Bluebook, please purchase it directly from: <https://www.legalbluebook.com/>. In a pinch, the library also carries print copies of these texts.

### **II. Enroll in the Online Spaces.**

1. Core Grammar for Lawyers (“CGL”): You can find CGL at: <https://coregrammar.com/getcgl>. This class’s access code is **BUFF2022**, and our class code is **322-162-5934**.
2. Mastering the Bluebook Interactive Exercises (“MBIE”): You can find MBIE at: <https://masteringthebluebook.com/getmbie>. Our class’s access code is **BUFF2022**, and our class code is **322-162-5670**. You can receive a discount by bundling CGL and MBIE by entering the access code.
3. UB Learns: Be sure you have access to LAWR I.

### **III. Before Our First Class**

1. CGL: Once enrolled, complete the Pre-Test by **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 28**. The Pre-Test is ungraded, however, failure to complete the Pre-Test by the deadline will result in a lowered grade on the 5% allotted to the CGL portion of your grade.
2. MBIE: Just make an account!
3. Readings: Please complete the following readings:
  - a. Top Tips for Mental and Emotional Well-Being While in Law School – Posted on UB Learns.
  - b. Ten Tips for Transitioning to Legal Writing – Posted on UB Learns.
  - c. Talking to Students About the Differences Between Undergraduate Writing and Legal Writing – Posted on UB Learns.
  - d. Introduction, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2 of A Lawyer Writes.



4. Syllabus: Read, print, and sign the syllabus. Bring the signed page to our first class.

**IV. Complete the First Writing Assignment.**

Prepare your first writing assignment and email it to me by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 22**. Please prepare an essay telling me about yourself. The essay should be single-spaced, one-page maximum. These essays are private and will not be shared with anyone.

Please include: your name, where you consider home, why you chose to go to law school, why you chose the School of Law, what you hope to get out of law school, whether you have an area of law you are interested in, your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and anything else you think I should know at the outset of the semester.

We are going to have a great semester, and you got this! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [fariname@buffalo.edu](mailto:fariname@buffalo.edu) or (716) 645-2885.