STUDENTS MAY REGISTER FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS DURING THE BRIDGE PERIOD (Law 4 week session)

Due to the abbreviated nature of the courses, attendance is mandatory at all class sessions.

L-500 LEGAL PROFESSION - Melinda Saran
0 credits (continuation of the fall course)

Students will develop an understanding of the skills and professional responsibility of being an attorney, counselor at law and legal advocate. Students will learn skills to perform well in the Law School curriculum. You will also learn about issues facing law students and attorneys as they try to meet their obligation to "maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct." Topics will include ethical obligations and stressors facing lawyers, and mentoring. Due to guest presentations, attendance is required at all sessions to successfully complete this course. While the course will be graded S/U, students who do not regularly attend will not pass the course and will have to repeat it in their second year of Law School. Course meets from 1/13 to 1/29.

L-516 LEGAL ANALYSIS, WRITING & RESEARCH II - Johanna Oreskovic, Christine Bartholomew, Patrick Long, Laura Reilly, Stephen Paskey

*First year students only. The bridge component to this course begins on 1/13/15. This is the second semester of a full-year course designed to introduce students to legal analysis, legal research and legal communication. Students learn to construct legal arguments using the analytical skills acquired during their first semester. They also build on the research skills that they learned in their first semester to independently research the law needed to support their arguments. They then communicate their arguments by writing a trial level brief for their instructors, and by arguing their cases before legal professionals from the local bar who act as judges.

L-698 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, TRANSACTIONS, AND PRODUCTS - Phil Halpern
3 credits

This class will focus on financial institutions and the regulatory structures governing them. Particular attention will be paid to commercial and investment banking activities, but we will also look at other types of financial institutions. In addition, we will examine a number of currently used financial products and investment vehicles.

This class is required for students who will be participating in the University at Buffalo Law School New York City Program in International Finance and Law. It is not open to other students. This course is part of the Finance Transactions Concentration. Permission of instructor.

L-752 LAW, ECONOMICS AND RACIAL JUSTICE - Athena Mutua
2 credits

John Rawls reminds us that justice is to social institutions, what truth is to systems of thought. This course seeks to move in and from critical legal theory to legal action. Engaging key constitutional and other cases, the course specifically focuses on a number of different economic theories to explore the world in which we live, centering race and class (among other identitarian categories) to anchor issues and discussions of contemporary law, policy, practice, and theory. For instance, what does Citizens United mean in the context of democracy? What does the federal deficit debate mean in the context of monetary sovereignty? Why is access to food and water racialized and what legal framework and tools can be used to combat this. What happened to usury laws with regard to credit card debt and who is most impacted by this state of affairs? What is the relationship between the FDA and the milk industry and should lawyers challenge this? If so, how?

The aim of the course is to aid students in developing critical, legal and strategic thinking about various policy and justice projects, at the end of which students should be able to (1) read cases with increased analytical ability; (2) critically question various social, economic and legal policies informed by multiple economic theories; 3) analyze and discern the impact of various laws, policies, and practices on the environment and people, particularly marginalized groups and individuals; and (4) discuss and plan with others, strategic methods for using law and other tools to address various in/justice challenges.
Students will be required to respond weekly to questions or provide reflections on the course materials and maintain a journal. There is no exam in this course. Attendance is required.

L-898 PRIVATE SECTOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION - William A. Lundquist
1 credit

This course provides an overview of legal and practical considerations for Alternative Dispute Resolution, primarily arbitration, in commercial and consumer private sector disputes, and in enforcement of statutory rights and remedies. The emphasis is on contractual ADR, including factors in drafting and negotiating ADR agreements, specifying or limiting available remedies, interplay with statutory and case law, third-party administration, court involvement before and during proceedings, legal issues in confirming or setting aside awards, and recent developments and controversies in case law, such as applying the principle of “manifest disregard of the law” to arbitration awards, and enforcement or voiding of contractual class action waivers in consumer, employment, and other contracts with arbitration provisions. While there will be some discussion of international ADR, domestic proceedings and laws, with emphasis on New York law, are the focus of the course. It is not a course on techniques for presenting or defending claims, witnesses, and proof in proceedings, as there simply is not enough available class time, but there will be discussion of procedural processes. In addition to class lectures and discussion of selected statutes, articles, cases, and alternative forms of agreements, there will be a take-home writing assignment distributed in the last class session, comprising either short essays, short-answer questions, or a combination of both, in any event limited overall to six pages, due by the last day of the final exam period for the Bridge Course session.

L-904 WORKERS’ COMPENSATION & EMPLOYER LIABILITY – Jeremy Schnurr/Frank Dolce
1 credit

This one-credit bridge course will provide students with a working knowledge of the workers compensation system in New York. The historical and theoretical foundations of this remedial system will also be covered through the use of a course textbook and supplemental readings. The textbook will be made available in the bookstore of the law school. It is also the objective of this course to impart a working knowledge of the interplay between the workers compensation system and the other diverse remedial systems existing in New York, such as the no-fault insurance system covering motor vehicle accidents, third-party tort liability, and the Federal Social Security Disability and New York State Disability systems. Students will find this course invaluable whether they are interested in representing the right of injured workers or corporate or government employers.

L-906 TAKING AND DEFENDING DEPOSITIONS – Daniel J. Marren
1 credit

This will be a practical one credit course in both the mechanics and strategies of taking and defending depositions in state and federal courts. After reviewing the rules for conducting depositions and the mechanics of preparing witnesses, making objections, marking exhibits and interacting with the court reporter, each member of the class will have the opportunity to conduct and defend a deposition. Student performances will be critiqued and will, along with classroom participation, form the basis for grading.

Students enrolling in this class may not also enroll in Professor Altreuter’s class (L947).

L-907 HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING: ADVOCACY, INFLUENCE AND IMPACT IN WASHINGTON, DC
Tara Melish and Nicole Lee, Esq.
SEMINAR – 3 credits

*January 20-30, 2015 in Washington, DC

In recent years, more SUNY Buffalo Law School graduates have sought employment in human rights and also in Washington, DC. Washington, D.C. is a market that presents unique opportunities and challenges for new attorneys. Through the lens of international human rights law, this bridge course will introduce students to governmental, intergovernmental bodies, law firms and human rights organizations that are engaged in the practice of international law and in the broader advocacy arena. Students will be exposed to a variety of strategies used in Washington to exert influence, impact policymaking, and meet other legal and policy ends. Topics that the course will explore are: (1) Advocacy through lobbying; (2) Advocacy through legislation; (3) Advocacy through reporting; and (4) Advocacy through litigation.

Students will spend 10 days in Washington, DC and attend meetings with officials and representatives in government (Congress, State Department, Department of Justice), inter-governmental organizations (the World Bank, ILO, OAS, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), non-governmental human rights organizations (e.g., Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, ACLU, CEJIL, Open Society Foundations, Disability Rights International, Human Rights Campaign, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Due Process of Law Foundation, RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights, UN Foundation, ASIL, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Solidarity Center), and law firms (e.g., Arent Fox, Sidley Austin). These meetings will be supplemented by classroom discussions, professional
networking opportunities with alumni, a tour of the Holocaust Museum, and an opportunity to explore Washington. This course fulfills the seminar and skills requirements. If you are interested please contact Professor Melish.

Students will meet with instructors twice prior to the January bridge.
Students will be assigned a short project and a final paper due in the spring semester.
Estimated Cost: $1500 + transportation to DC.

L-908 FEDERAL PRETRIAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - Anthony Bruce

1 credit

The course will cover all aspects of pretrial criminal practice that are generally encountered in the pretrial stages of federal criminal cases, with emphasis on procedure, rather than substantive matters. It will cover the representation of a client before the grand jury, motions to suppress, discovery motions, motions attacking the indictment, motions for bills of particulars, motions to sever, practical application of the rule of Brady v. Maryland, and charge and plea bargaining under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, and is intended to provide students with an overview of pretrial procedures they can expect in federal court, both in defending and prosecuting cases.

L-912 NEW YORK STATE SURROGATE’S PRACTICE - Hon. Barbara Howe

1 credit

This course is being taught by Hon. Barbara Howe, Ph.D., J.D., who brings to the course her 11 plus years as New York State Surrogate Judge for Erie County plus 12 years prior experience as a State Supreme Court Justice. During the 8 sessions, students will be exposed to lecture and discussion of statutes and case law addressing 9 cutting edge topics in New York State Surrogate’s Court practice including: (1) kinship and DNA testing; (2) inheritance and privacy issues in adoption cases; (3) accounting proceedings in trusts and estates; (4) guardianships of the property of minors; (5) inheritance and divorce; (6) guardianships of mentally challenged individuals; (7) examination of witnesses to the execution of a will; (8) digital assets at death; and (9) human remains. Students will be required to submit 7 short papers, with each paper being submitted at the beginning of each class session after the first class. No textbook or other materials are required for purchase but each student must have individual access to a legal data base to access cases and statutes.

L-914 LAW, FILM AND LITERATURE - Gary Muldoon

2 credits

This course will explore how the legal profession, and legal issues, are treated in different media: films, plays, and books. Be prepared to read, watch, and write.

L-919 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LITIGATION – Kenneth Africano

1 credit

This one-credit course will involve case studies of actual litigated matters including copyright infringement actions over the films Backdraft and Shakespeare in Love, as well as an alleged sampling case involving Ice Cube’s song “Gangstas Make the World Go Round.” Students will review actual pleadings, expert reports and other evidentiary material presented in these cases and will engage in a “hands-on” analysis and comparison of allegedly infringing works of art, films and music. The course will also explore the use of expert witnesses, the benefits and pitfalls of seeking preliminary injunctions and the evidentiary challenges of proving damages and lost profits. There will be a review of the fundamental concepts of patent, trademark and copyright infringement cases, as well as a brief overview of unfair competition and trade secret misappropriation claims. Students will be expected to learn to distinguish between these broad areas of intellectual property law so as to be able to recognize and analyze potential infringement cases.

L-923 PROFESSIONAL SPORTS CONTRACT NEGOTIATION & ARBITRATION - Helen Drew

1 credit

This will be a hands-on experience in the legal and practical skills necessary to negotiate and arbitrate a professional sports employment contract. The class will be divided into two-person teams representing management and players. Each team will research, prepare and actively negotiate and arbitrate a professional athlete's contract. Class limited to 12 persons.
L-925 SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY LAW & PRACTICE  - Catherine Callery
1 credit

This course will provide an overview and in-depth study of social security disability law and practice. Topics will include: 1) eligibility for Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits; and 2) the appeal process when an individual is denied benefits, with an emphasis on appeals to the U.S. District Courts. Students will write one short paper.

L-928 COMMERCIAL LITIGATION UNDER THE UCC - FROM CONTRACT TO COURT  - William Savino
2 credits

This course explores the options, tactics, and procedures for commercial transactions which turned adversarial. We follow the subject equipment from purchase order, contract and delivery through malfunction, dispute, and litigation. Working from a record from an actual action (plus miscellaneous samples), we apply Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code to pleading, discovery, motion and appellate practice. EACH STUDENT WILL CONDUCT AND DEFEND MOCK DEPOSITIONS AND APPELLATE ARGUMENT AS WELL AS DRAFT DISCOVERY DEMANDS AND PROPOSED DECISIONS. The goal: crafting practical skills through real world case study.

L-934 BUFFALO FINANCIAL CONTROL BOARD  – James Magavern
1 credit

The City of Buffalo has been subject to severe economic and fiscal stress since the 1950's. In 2003, the Governor and the State Legislature created the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority, commonly known as the Control Board, with two principal functions: to oversee and regulate the City's financial functions; and to borrow on behalf of the City with an effective pledge of City revenues to support its debt.

The fundamental question to be considered in this four-week course is the amenability of economic and fiscal problems such as those of the City to resolution by subordination of democratic politics to control by a board of appointed experts. More particularly, we will consider the state constitutional basis for the Control Board, the context of state-local fiscal relations during the last fifty years, the origins of the fiscal crisis leading to the creation of the Control Board, the political context in which the Board was created, the assumptions and objectives of the statute creating the Board, and an assessment of the accomplishments of the Board as against those objectives.

We will meet in eight 90-minute class sessions. We have invited Prof. Nils Olsen, the current Chair of the Board, to participate in our class sessions as fully as he deems appropriate. We may invite one or two other guests to join us for particular sessions. Grades will be based on a paper responding to a broad question posed at the outset of the course, drawing on knowledge of the course materials and class discussions, and demonstrating depth of understanding of basic issues.

L-936 WHEN THE VICTIM IS A CHILD  – Ann Marie Tucker
1 credit

Crimes against children pose unique challenges and issues for criminal and civil legal systems. Shame, fear, and developmental capacity all contribute to delayed, confusing and gradual disclosure of victimization by children. Significant legal changes culminating in the last two decades address corroboration, statutes of limitations and competency in an attempt to increase fairness and court access for child victims This course will examine legal issues affecting children’s access to the court system. Accommodations for children will be examined from a theoretical, practical and ethical perspective and will include legal, procedural and programmatic approaches.

L-938 THE TRIAL OF A DEATH PENALTY CASE  - James Harrington/William Easton
1 credit

This course will be an introduction to a death penalty trial. The course will be based upon a hypothetical case using the Federal procedures. This will be used for learning the death penalty process from the commission of the homicide through the end of the trial. Pretrial preparation, investigation, critical decisions of the prosecution and the defense, grand jury proceedings, pretrial motions, pretrial procedures, tactics, and the bifurcated trials of guilt and sentencing will be analyzed. The special development of sentencing mitigation evidence, the use of experts, the differences between regular criminal trials and capital cases, such as jury selection and the penalty phase of the trial, will be examined. Each student will do a mock jury selection. The final exam will be the delivery of a closing argument for the penalty phase of the trial. Each student will select either a prosecution or defense closing argument.
**L-946  INTRODUCTION TO NYS ADMINISTRATIVE LAW** - Stephanie Calhoun

2 credits

Lawyers for agencies, regulated industries, and public interest groups understand that New York State administrative agencies wield significant power in the State. The validity of state agencies’ actions depends on compliance with administrative law. This course explores: sources and limits of agency authority; procedures agencies must use in investigation, rulemaking, and adjudication; and availability and scope of judicial review of agency actions. The course uses a problem orientation to stress practical application of administrative law. Course evaluation will primarily be by a simulated challenge to a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation administrative determination, with written and oral advocacy components.

**L-947 DISCOVERY STRATEGY & DEPOSITION TACTICS** - William Altreuter

1 credit

This is a course on methods, and as such our emphasis will be on (a) the statutory materials which form the basis for the taking of discovery in general; and depositions in particular; and (b) working with the “working papers” we have assembled, which are intended to provide a jumping off point for the discussion of the tactics and strategy of conducting discovery generally, and depositions in particular. Our goal will be to work towards an understanding of the overall context of discovery practice. We will cover both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the New York Rules of Civil Procedure provisions that are pertinent, in the hope that the contrasts and similarities between the two sets of rules will provide some illumination.

As suits a course on methods we will be proceeding with a minimum amount of lecture, and as much participation as possible. In general we will devote the first portion of the class to a discussion of practical approaches to the taking of discovery, referencing the relevant statutory provisions as we proceed. The second portion of each session will consist of a pair of depositions: a student will be assigned to take the deposition of the plaintiff, and a student will be assigned to take the deposition of the defendant in one of the example cases. We will critique as we go, and will look to the class to do likewise.

**Students enrolled in this class may not enroll in L906 – Taking and Defending Depositions.**

**L-957  CURRENT TOPICS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT** - Susan Grelick/Michael Risman

2 credits

Provides an overview of the issues involved in the operation of local government by focusing on current controversial issues confronting Western New York municipalities.

The first and second sessions review the structure of local governments and will study: differences in city vs. town structure; advantages and disadvantages of elected vs. appointed positions; strong executive form of government vs. County, City or Town manager form of government; term-limits, and downsizing of legislative bodies. It includes an overview of the concept of Regionalism and how it has been applied to local governments. Sessions include presentations by elected and/or appointed officials on a current governmental structure issue before their municipality.

The third and fourth sessions examine the fiscal roles and responsibilities of municipal officials and ethics in government. The sessions will study tax rates, assessments, bonding for capital projects, purchasing practices and procedures, credit ratings, public/private partnerships, privatization, lobbying reform and debt management. The sessions include presentations by a Town, City or County Comptroller, Finance Director, Member of a Fiscal Stability Board or Assessor.

The fifth and sixth sessions focus on Planning, Zoning, Environmental and Economic Development Issues. It includes a review of the various municipal planning, zoning and economic development boards and their interrelationship. It will cover land use moratoria, “sinking homes”, deer management control, the “Kelo” eminent domain case, impact of adoption of comprehensive plans on land use decisions, brownfields funding and legislation, the role of the IDA in economic development, “big-box” stores, Wal-Marts, Waterfront Revitalization and historic preservation commissions. The class includes guest speakers from a Municipal Planning Board and/or a Planning Official and/or an Economic Development Official.

The seventh and eighth sessions cover labor relations, personnel management, municipal liability issues, and access to governmental information. It covers the Taylor Law, Civil Service System, employee relations, general municipal liability, Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act. It includes speakers from organized labor and/or a Human Resources manager.

**L-958  CHOOSING THE RIGHT JURY (Criminal Voir Dire)** - Stuart Austin

1 credit - Meets on 1/15, 1/16, 1/22 and 1/23 from 9:30-12:30.
Turn the TV to any high profile case and you will see jury consultants and “experts” critiquing the jury and selection process. It is becoming chic for attorneys to pawn off the voir dire to non-lawyers or to be assisted in their jury selection. Defense attorneys who once “relied on their instincts” are now realizing that a poorly picked jury is more harmful to their case than a murder weapon with fingerprints. This course will eradicate the notion that when picking a jury, an attorney is looking for fair and impartial people. A practiced attorney is trying to find people who will be receptive to his/her theory of the case. You will learn how to recognize favorable jurors, persuade some jurors and mold others.

We will highlight the skills necessary to conduct a meaningful and constructive criminal jury selection given the time limitation of 20 minutes imposed by many State Courts. You will learn to become your own jury expert. Through case scenarios and simulations, students will learn what to say, what not to say and most importantly…how to say it. Students will learn when to use a peremptory challenge and how to effectively execute cause challenges.

The course will be comprised mostly of role playing and learning through example. Students will deal with the applicable law, the psychology of behavior and even a little bit of acting. Using fact patterns based on actual trial cases, students will simulate the roles of defense counsel, prosecution and prospective juror in order to gain a practical understanding of the theories of voir dire. Student performances will be critiqued by both instructor and students and, along with class participation, will form the basis for grading.

L-959  SEXUAL HARASSMENT MEDIATION – Lindy Korn
1 credit

- What makes a sexual harassment case different than other claims of discrimination?
- What role does retaliation play?
- What are the advantages of mediating these cases for all parties?
- What special skills are needed in such a mediation?
- Who should be present at the mediation?
- How does an advocate participate in a sexual harassment mediation?
- What role does medical evidence play?
- Is a Joint Session appropriate?
- What does an agreement in a sexual harassment mediation case include?
- How does a Motion for Summary Judgment encourage mediation?
- What consideration can the attorney’s fees play in reaching a settlement?
- What techniques can one use to have the difficult conversation that matters?

These are some of the issues that we will cover in the Sexual Harassment Mediation Bridge Course. Case studies will be a crucial method for analyzing information in a dispute resolution process such as mediation.

There will also be emphasis on the ways to mediate in a sexual harassment case, and an examination of what is unique to those disputes.

Recent Supreme Court Decisions will be discussed and applied to the mediation process. Since this area of law is “young” and still being shaped by the Courts, recent trends will be identified.

L-963  THE LAW OF GRC AND WHISTLEBLOWING – Jennifer Pacella
2 credits

This two-credit course will examine the law of corporate governance, risk management, and compliance (commonly referred to as “GRC”) as a critical means of improving the ethics of business organizations. As a relatively new and growing topic in American legal education, the law of GRC considers the rules, regulations, and internal business practices that, as a whole, ensure effective corporate functioning along with ethical compliance and the enhancement of social welfare. GRC will be studied from the specific perspective of the legal system and the legal profession while considering the central role of attorneys in this context. This course will place special emphasis on the ever-popular phenomenon of whistleblowing, an increasingly important tool for ensuring compliance. The protections that federal statutes offer corporate whistleblowers will be examined, as well as the valuable role that whistleblowers play in GRC and in today’s society.

L-964  MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden
1 credit

To provide students with a foundation for understanding the role and function of the Court as it relates to criminal proceedings involving
This course will focus on issues relating primarily to Article 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law. The course will be conducted in lecture form. The use of guest speakers will be included to enhance the student’s understanding. Distinctions between related theories such as “not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect/ insanity”, “extreme emotional distress”, “diminished capacity”, and “developmental disability” will be discussed. Copies of relevant case law and statutes must be obtained by the students.

Successful completion of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure is required as a prerequisite to taking this class.

L-970 CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL RIGHTS: THE CHILD AS A LEGITIMATE CITIZEN - Bruce M. Gilberg
1 credit

The purpose of this course is to describe on an introductory level how the rights of children are evolving within the U.S. legal system. Children are identified as a minority group whose freedoms have been both advanced and thwarted based on interpretations of the constitution as well as the ongoing legal conflicts between parental rights and the rights of the child. We will investigate how the courts’ judgments help or hinder when government protects the rights of the child. A pervasive concern remains as to how the legal system may both protect children’s capacity or developmental rights while protecting children’s vulnerability in circumstances that fall beyond their control.

This course will provide a perspective (a small sample) on how child development, the law and children’s rights influence or form legal decisions regarding four issues: the child’s right to medical care, the child’s status in a family (foster care, adoption, custody), the juvenile criminal justice system and public education.

L-973 ANATOMY OF A PERSONAL INJURY CASE – J. Michael Hayes
1 credit

Accident claims comprise the civil litigator’s practice. Recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of each individual accident is the first priority for any practitioner. Misjudging a potential liability case can result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in income while accepting a case without merit will result in wasted time and lost revenues. This course will provide an overview of selected high points in the handling of such cases. This is a practice driven course, beginning with the initial client contact and continuing through pre-trial strategies, procedures and techniques. The students will be expected to consider and confront practical issues and questions that attorneys face on a daily basis. Drafting and evaluating pleading, motions, releases, lien notices and other standard documents will be a part of the course.

L-978 NCAA REGULATIONS – Bridget Niland
1 credit

College athletics has grown increasingly popular to American society and has become an important element to college campuses across the nation. This course reviews the organizational structure, administrative regulations and appellate mechanisms that have developed to ensure fairness on the playing field and progress in the classroom.

L-987 DIRECT AND CROSS-EXAMINATION OF EXPERT WITNESSES IN A CIVIL TRIAL - James Scime
1 credit

This course presents the theory and practice of preparing (and preparing for) and examining (direct and cross) the expert witness in a civil case. The course deals with diverse experts including, but not limited to, doctors, accident reconstructionists, economists, and product analysts. Students will directly examine their own expert; cross-examine the adversary’s expert witness; address matters of evidence, motions in limine and the notice requirements regarding expert testimony; and submit a written memorandum analyzing the witnesses and setting forth their goals for direct and cross-examination. Trial Technique is a pre-requisite for this course.

L-995 DIRECT AND CROSS-EXAMINATION OF EXPERT WITNESSES IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL – Diane LaVallee
1 credit

The course deals with experts including DNA specialists, forensic pathologists, forensic psychologists, fingerprint experts, and/or forensic pediatricians. Students will perform a direct examination on their expert and cross-examine opposing counsel's expert witness; address
matters of evidence, motions in limine, and the notice requirements under the CPL. Students must also submit a written memorandum analyzing the witness and their goals for direct and cross-examination. **Trial Technique is a pre-requisite for this course.**