Syllabus

**Goals:** Generally, the goal of this course is to enable each student to gain a level of proficiency in the drafting of typical legal documents that are common to civil litigation. I seek to help each and every student refine their legal writing ability, and to give all students in the class a better perspective on the real-world practice of civil litigation. To that end, know that I enjoy teaching Litigation Drafting a great deal and that I am always happy to talk with any of you. Because of my out of state commute, I am not on campus as much this semester as I have been previously. Regardless, you are welcome to call me at any time with any questions about the class-- or just about anything else. If I don't answer, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

**Assignments:** There will be six written assignments for this course. They include a memo revision exercise, a client letter, a civil complaint, interrogatories, a motion to compel, and a motion for summary judgment. In addition to the written work, reading assignments will be announced in class the week before they are to be discussed. You must submit all written assignments to me electronically, and for some of them I also will require that you supply me (or my assistant, Brittany Moon) with a paper copy as well. Deadlines for written assignments will be announced in class with ample lead time. The final paper is due on the last day of the final exam period. If you have an emergency that warrants an extension of any course deadline, or if you are unable to attend any of our class sessions, please contact me with as much time as is practicable under the circumstances.

**Final:** In lieu of a final exam, there will be one final paper, a motion for summary judgment. I do not require submission of any paper copy of this assignment.
**Grading:** Grades will be determined by the following:

- Written assignments: 65%
- Final paper: 25%
- Class Participation: 10%

**Attendance:** Because of the small class size, and because I count class participation in your course grade, attendance matters more in this class than in some others. That said, each student gets one unexcused absence, and I may excuse other absences in extenuating circumstances. Regardless of why you are missing class, email me before your anticipated absence. Additionally, in the event you do miss a class, you should make an extra effort to contribute to the discussion in the weeks following the absence.

**Materials:** Every student is required to own the following three books: (1) The Curmudgeon’s Guide to Practicing Law by Herrmann, (2) Writing for Law Practice by Fajans et al., and (3) Thinking Like a Lawyer by Schauer.

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**Litigation Drafting**  
**Course Outline, Spring 2011**

Please note: the schedule given below is subject to change depending on my sense of the groups’ progress and needs.

#1  (Re-) Introduction to legal writing; overview of civil litigation and of the course

#2  Complaints and Answers

#3  Complaints and Answers continued; interviewing a client; memo rewrite assignment returned

#4  Complaints, drafting; client interview and other collection of information related to drafting the complaint; client letters

#5  Complaints and Answers; client letters exercise

#6  Discovery documents; drafting the Complaint in our case; letters

#7  Answers; discovery; drafting interrogatories for our case
#8  Interrogatories; review of materials to date

#9  Motions, drafting techniques; motion to compel

#10 Motions to Compel and Motions for Summary Judgment

#11 Motions to Compel and Motions for Summary Judgment

#12 Motions for Summary Judgment

#13 Motions for Summary Judgment

#14 Motions for Summary Judgment (4/19)