Fall 2012

Alabama Legal History Seminar

Days/Times: Tues, 3:30 - 5:20 p.m.    Professors Freyer & Pruitt
Room: Room 282    Office: 315 Law Center/223 Library
Email: tfreyer@law.ua.edu    Phone: 348-1116/ 348-1107

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Reading: See following Assignment Calendar; all assigned readings are on reserve at the Law Library main
desk under title of seminar or available electronically.

Grade: 80% based on final draft of paper; narrative, at least 20, typed double-spaced pages, plus
notes, on topic agreed to with Profs. Freyer/Pruitt – Final draft of paper due November 27.

Full set: One page summary of reading discussed during each class period (10%).

Critiques of rough drafts of papers (10%), following Calendar.

Honor Code: It is assumed that each student will comply with the Law School's and the University's Honor
Code.

Attendance: Required

Purpose: 1. Broaden understanding of Alabama Legal History

2. Prepare a writing sample.

Makeup: See Profs. Freyer/Pruitt

Paper Topic: To be chosen in consultation with Professors Freyer and Pruitt no later than class period, September
25. A first draft will be presented and critiqued during class [order of presentation to be determined] on October 30, November 6, November 13. On November 27, give Professors Freyer and Pruitt final draft of seminar paper; discuss and turn in one-page summary relating your paper to
Alabama Legal History.

Procedure for distribution of draft: Electronically; on Friday before Tuesday class meeting.

Students with special needs are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services, 348-4285. I am happy to assist in this important matter.

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Assignment Calendar

First Class, August 21:
• Introduction, cover syllabus; discuss Pruitt, “Root and Branch”; and [Freyer], ASCLI, “Introduction,” 1-16.

Second Class, August 28:
• Read: ASCLI, Chapter 1, “Legal Profession in Antebellum Alabama, 1819-1860,” 1-34 (sections on the legal profession and practice in Justice of the Peace courts, County Court, and Circuit Court); Saunders, Campbell, 1-83

• Discuss: ASCLI, Chapter 1, 62-82 (sections discussing the intellectual life of the bar); Baldwin, Flush Times, selected stories: “Mr. Gee and Mr. Tee,” 193-198; “A Hung Court,” 202-207, “Examining a Candidate,” 240-244.


Third Class, September 4:

• Discuss: ASCLI, Chapter 1, 34-54 (sections on practice before the Alabama Supreme Court and Federal Courts), and 54-61 (on the impact of the codification movement).


• Additional Sources: Durham and Pruitt, editors, Wade Keyes.

Fourth Class, September 11:

• Discuss: Durham’s “Improbable Journey” and Thomas Goode Jones’ “Code of Ethics” in Gilded Age Legal Ethics.

• Presentation, Team 1: Pruitt, Taming Alabama, 63-73 (Thomas Goode Jones Chapter); [Walthall], ASCLI Chapter 4, “Work of the Supreme Court in the Latter 19th Century.”

Fifth Class, September 18:
• Read: ASCLI, Chapter 3, 53-83 (covering judges, judicial politics, and court structures in New South


**Sixth Class, September 25: Paper Topic Due**


- **Discuss**: Freyer and Pruitt, “Reaction and Reform,” 77-133.

- **Presentation**: Lecture on the Constitution of 1901 by Prof. R. Volney Riser, author of Defying Disfranchisement.

**October 2 to 30**: Prepare first draft of paper. No class: Please consult Professors Freyer/Pruitt if you wish TBA.

**October 30**: First Draft of paper (four) class member critiques of paper distributed before class meeting. Professors Freyer/Pruitt critique papers and class discussion.

**November 6**: First Draft of paper (four) and critiques. Professors critique papers and class discussion.

**November 13**: First Draft of Paper (four) and critiques. Professors critique papers and class discussion.

**November 19-23** Thanksgiving Break.

**November 27** Turn-in revised final draft of paper and summary future of Alabama Legal History.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


***Manuscript: P. Pruitt, T. Freyer, “Alabama’s Supreme Court and Legal Institutions [ASCLI].”***