Course Description. The principal subject of this course is the purpose and function of those rules in the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure that civil litigators regularly encounter in their practice. We will also study some Alabama statutes and Alabama appellate decisions on common-law subjects that have significant procedural implications. Special attention will be paid to the recent decisions by the Alabama Supreme Court and the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals addressing civil procedure issues. We will also review procedural aspects of certain specific types of civil lawsuits, such as wrongful death actions and workers’ compensation cases.

Course Objective. The goal of this course is to equip each student with a working knowledge and understanding of the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure. Although this class is much more academic than clinical in its approach, we will spend some time reviewing and discussing “real life” pleadings and motions involving particular rules of civil procedure.

Course Outline and Weekly Assignments. A course outline will be distributed on or before the first class session on August 16, 2016. Reading assignments will be provided by e-mail.

Text and Course Materials: Alabama Rules of Court, State (West 2015). Because the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure are readily accessible on-line, it is not mandatory to purchase Alabama Rules of Court for this class. We will also study selected Alabama cases and statutes, which will be distributed during class or provided by e-mail.

Class Attendance and Participation. Students are expected to attend class. Attendance will be governed by the Law School’s attendance policy, and an attendance roster will be kept. If you know in advance that you will be absent for a class, it is desirable that you let me know by e-mail.
All students are expected to be prepared to discuss the assignment for each class. I will ask a lot of questions during class based on the assignments. I happily will take volunteers and as needed I will call on students randomly. Active and thoughtful class participation is desired from all students.

Make-up Classes. In the event that a class is canceled for any reason, I will make every effort to schedule a make-up class. Any last-minute class cancellations will be communicated via e-mail, so please check your e-mail prior to each class.

Examination and Grading. Your grade will be determined entirely on your performance on the final examination, which will be comprised of several essay questions and which will be administered pursuant to the “floating examination” policy of the Law School.

ADA Accommodations. The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning and other disabilities, and it provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each person’s specific requirements. The Law School’s assistant deans and the University’s Office of Disability Services work together to help individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain individual autonomy. Students with disabilities may contact Vice Dean James Leonard at (205) 348-5927 (jleonard@law.ua.edu) so that any need for support services can be evaluated and accommodated in a timely manner.

Code of Academic Conduct Statement. All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Technology in Class. Cell phones, pagers and other communication devices must be turned off, or be on silent mode, and may not be used within the classroom. Recording of classes is not permitted. Students may use computers during class to review course materials and for taking notes.

Contact Information. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this class. You may reach me by telephone at (205) 572-4920. You also can send me an e-mail at this e-mail address: calexander@rumberger.com. If you would like to schedule an in-person meeting, I will be happy to meet with you at the law school before or after class, and perhaps at other times.

Craig A. Alexander
Adjunct Professor