

**Introduction to the Legal Profession
Syllabus
Fall 2019
Dean Wilcox, Professor Medlin, Associate Dean Palmer**

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

This is a one-credit-hour course and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. There is no assigned text.

There is no final exam. Grading will be determined as explained below.

Seven sessions of the class will be held on Monday afternoons from 4:20-6:00 p.m. in Room 103. Those classes will meet on August 26, September 9, September 16, September 30, October 7, October 14, and October 28. Note that all of these classes, except October 28, will meet for 100 minutes, with a 10-minute break partway through. The October 28 class will meet for 60 minutes. During the first three weeks, the class will meet first for 45 minutes in Room 103, and then the second 45-minute portion of the class will be held as smaller break-out sessions in the classrooms noted.

During the weeks of September 23 and October 21, you will meet for approximately 90 minutes with your professional mentors at various scheduled times.

CLASS TOPICS

Class 1

(August 26): Part 1: Introduction to Legal Competencies; the Importance of Preparation

Part 2: Breakout Sessions

Section 1: Career Development Planning (Palmer) (Room 289)

Section 2: The Regulated Profession (Wilcox) (Room 395)

Section 3: Learning from Successful Lawyers (Medlin) (Room 103)

Class 2

(September 9): Part 1: Lawyers in Practice
Guests: Karen Thomas, Esq. (Estate Planning and Tax Practice); Vance Stricklin, Esq. (Family Law Practice)

Part 2: Breakout Sessions

Section 1: The Regulated Profession (Wilcox) (Room 395)

Section 2: Learning from Successful Lawyers (Medlin) (Room 103)

Section 3: Career Development Planning (Palmer) (Room 289)

Class 3

(September 16):

Part 1: Lawyers in Practice

Guest: Carl Solomon, Esq. (Litigation Practice)

Part 2: Breakout Sessions

Section 1: Learning from Successful Lawyers (Medlin) (Room 103)

Section 2: Career Development Planning (Palmer) (room 289)

Section 3: The Regulated Profession (Wilcox) (Room 395)

Week 4

(Week of September 23): Mentoring Session (No Class)

First Reflective Paper Due: 11:00 p.m. ET, September 30

Class 5

(September 30):

Part 1: Lawyers in Practice

Guest: Tina Cundari, Esq. (United States Attorney's Office:
Civil Division)

Part 2: Lawyer Ethics and Professionalism (An Overview)

Class 6

(October 7):

Part 1: Lawyers in Practice

Guest: Hon. Alan Wilson (South Carolina Attorney General)

Part 2: Law Graduates in Government and Governmental Relations

Guests: Kali Turner, Esq. (S.C. Bar Governmental Affairs);
TBD

Class 7

(October 14):

Part 1: Lawyers in Non-Profits and Business

Guests: TBD

Part 2: Anticipating Change: The Future of the Legal Profession

Guest: Prof. Elizabeth Chambliss

Week 8

(Week of October 21): Mentoring Session (No Class)

Second Reflective Paper Due: 11:00 p.m. ET, October 28

Class 9

**(October 28): Course Assessment; Having a Long and Happy Career;
Closing Thoughts**

Guest: Mike Ethridge, Esq.

BASIS OF GRADING

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, you **must**

(1) attend class as required below and engage professionally when called upon to do so in class activities and discussions;

(2) submit two reflective papers that demonstrate your attention to advice provided by your mentors and to any related class discussions; **and**

(3) attend the required number of law-related activities set forth below.

COURSE ATTENDANCE

You must attend both mentoring sessions, and failure to do so may result in a failing grade in the course. You also are expected to attend all of the class sessions. If you miss more than one of the seven regular class sessions, you will receive a failing grade unless a waiver of the rule prohibiting excessive absences is granted by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. You **must** attend the class breakout session for your section on Career Development Planning.

You will be required to sign in for each of the seven classes in Room 103. Failure to sign in may be counted as an absence. On days in which classes have two parts, the failure to attend a substantial portion of either portion will be treated as an absence. Falsifying any attendance documentation in connection with the course will be reported as a possible Honor Code violation.

SUBMISSION OF 2 REFLECTIVE PAPERS

Following each of your two mentoring meetings, you must submit a short paper on TWEN, in which you reflect upon one or more of the topics discussed with

your mentors and any connections you may draw between that discussion and information learned in prior Introduction to the Legal Profession classes.

The papers must be solely your work. They must be typed, and each should contain between 800 and 1200 words. The first paper must be submitted on TWEN not later than **11:00 pm ET on Monday, September 30, 2019**. The second paper must be submitted on TWEN not later than **11:00 pm ET on Monday, October 28, 2019**. Failure to submit either paper as required will result in a failing grade in the course.

LAW-RELATED ACTIVITIES

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, you **must**

- (1) Complete the LawFit assessment and attend a Resume and Cover Letter Workshop (multiple scheduling opportunities). Complete on-line **1L Pathway Career Services 101**.

AND

- (2) After completing Law-Related Activity 1 above, schedule an appointment and meet with a counsellor in the Office of Career Services not later than November 22, 2019, followed by submission of a resume and cover letter acceptable to Career Services.

AND

- (3) Attend at least 5 of the following events (**at least 2 of the 5 events you attend must be a career services sponsored event**) (you may attend several events within a single sub-category on different dates and claim attendance credit for each separate event)
 - a) United States Attorney's Office Cross-Examination Training for Law Enforcement Officers – Friday, Sept. 13; 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Room 103)
(Minimum attendance for credit is one hour)
 - b) National Advocacy Center Speaker Series – Thursday, September 12 or Wednesday, October 2; 12:45-1:45 p.m. (Room 136)
 - c) Legaltech Seminar Series – Thursdays, September 5, September 26, October 3, October 17, October 31, or November 14; 8:00-9:00 a.m. (Room 103)
 - d) Supreme Court Lunchtime Talk – Dates TBA
 - e) Career Services Seminars –

- August 27: Clerkships 101 – Introduction to federal and state judicial clerkships and timeline (overview primarily for 1Ls)
- September 19: JAG panel with reps from Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine JAG, plus University's ROTC director (moderated by Bennett Gore)
- September 24: Networking 101 and Networking Reception with Richland County Bar
- October 8: Life as an In-house Counsel – Alysja Carlisle and others
- October 22: Summer Job Recap – panel of 2Ls talking about their summer job experience and how they got it; designed for 1Ls
- October 29: How I Got to DC – panel of USC Law grads with DC practice experience
- November 12: Government and Public Interest Law information session

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this course, you should have the following:

- (1) a fundamental understanding of the role of a lawyer in an adversarial legal system, and a basic understanding of the range of professional responsibilities owed by a lawyer to various people and institutions with whom the lawyer may have contact;
- (2) an understanding of key factors that may contribute to career fulfillment and enjoyment;
- (3) a basic knowledge of the governance structure of the legal profession and sources of rules that guide a lawyer's professional behavior;
- (4) a fundamental understanding of the range of career opportunities available to a person who has earned a JD degree and of the types of work performed by lawyers in different roles, better preparing you to identify your individual strengths and career goals and to select a career path consistent with your goals;

- (5) a stronger understanding of the importance of developing various professional competencies during law school in order to best prepare you for your career;
- (6) an appreciation of the need to care for your physical and mental health in order that you might truly enjoy a long legal career; and
- (7) a stronger sense of your individual responsibility to take full advantage of the opportunity you have to study law and of the need to approach your studies with purpose and determination.