



Texas A&M University School of Law
Fall '26 Externship Criminal Law Class Agenda
Law 7835 – Sec. 603

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Tuesday, Aug. 18
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
LEB 618B

THEME: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

- Introduction of Faculty Program Participants and Roles
- Student Introductions
- Discussion of Course Objectives
 - Learning from Experience
 - Setting Goals
 - First Day Plan: Assignments & Asking the Right Questions
 - Value of Reflection

Assignments for Class:

- Complete Pre-Externship Skill Assessment
- Complete Externship Survey
- Be prepared to reflect upon goal setting exercise in class

Friday, Aug. 21
(12:00PM-1:30PM)
LEB 618B

THEME: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK (CONT.)

- Ethics/Confidentiality/Conflicts
- Facilitating Communication and Incorporating Feedback
- Aerial View of Criminal Defense

Read for Class:

- How to Try a Criminal Case – Steven Brand & Patricia Cummings
- Trial Start to Finish – Steven Brand & Patricia Cummings
- Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct 1.05:
Confidentiality of Information (Read rule and comment)
- Mock Trial Problem and Documents

Assignment for Class:

Complete Theory of the Case Worksheet

Tuesday, Sept. 1
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
LEB 618B

THEME: INFORMATION GATHERING AND METAWORK

(Private Investigator Guest Speaker)

- Class reflection on assignments and experience
- Investigation
 - Guilt-Innocence
 - Sentencing Mitigation

Read for Class:

- Pretrial Investigation and Motions Practice – Carmen Roe
- Pretrial Motions – Mark Daniel
- Federal Pretrial Motions – Michael Heiskell
- Pretrial Detention and Bail – Kent Schaffer

Assignment for Class:

- Draft a Motion for Investigator
- Draft a Motion for Expert

**Tuesday, Sept. 15
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
Law School
Courtroom**

THEME: DISCOVERING THE STORY AND PRETRIAL TRAPS

(Guest Speaker to Lead Exercise)

- Class reflection on assignments and experience
- Case Management
- Workshopping Case Theme and Theory

Read for Class:

- Discovering the Story – Colby Vokey
- Winning Pretrial Strategy and Negotiations – Cynthia Orr
- Self Defense and Use of Force – Bill Wirsky

**Tuesday, Sept. 29
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
LEB 618B**

THEME: TELLING THE STORY

- Class reflection on assignments and experience
- Developing a network of mentors and mentees
- Voir Dire and Opening Statement

Read for Class:

- Best Defense Starts with a Good Offense – Monroe Solomon III
- Voir Dire – Robert Hirschhorn
- Opening Statements – David Guinn & Robert Hirschhorn

Assignment for Class:

- Voir Dire Worksheet and be prepared to present a mock voir dire
- Opening Statement Worksheet and be prepared to present a mock opening statement

Suggested Readings for Class:

What Clients Want from Their Lawyers, Clark D. Cunningham
<http://clarkcunningham.org/PR/WhatClientsWant.pdf>

The Ethical Case for Client Service, Roy Ginsberg, Internet for Lawyers,
<https://www.netforlawyers.com/page/client-service-ethical-case-keeping-clients-satisfied>

Mid-Term Meetings:

You will be responsible for scheduling a meeting with your supervisor for a mid-term review.

Interview your supervising attorney or another attorney you admire. How do they see their role /purpose as a lawyer? In their organization? In relation to the client (or persons they serve)? What important lessons have they learned about working with clients? Or serving their others? Compare your observations on interactions between lawyers, co-workers, judges, clients, and the community.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
AT THE
COURTHOUSE**

THEME: HONING THE TOOLS FOR BATTLE

- Class reflection on assignments and experience
- Understanding and Processing Feedback
- Cross-Examination
- Direct Examination

Read for Class:

- Cross Examination – Mark Daniel
- Cross Examination – Tiffany Burks
- Cross Examination – Dan Cogdell & Nicholas Norris
- Expert Witnesses and Challenges to Expert Testimony – Craig Jett

Assignment for Class:

- Complete Two Direct Examination Worksheets
 - One for Natasha Romanoff
 - One for Louis Chandler
- Complete Three Cross Examination Worksheets
 - One for Bruce Banner
 - One for Harley Quinn
 - One for Dr. Tony Stark

**Tuesday, Nov. 10
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
LEB 618B**

THEME: FINISHING STRONG

- Class reflection on assignments and experience
- Trial Notebooks
- Jury Charge
- Closing Argument

Read for Class:

- Jury Charge Issues – Enrico Valdez & Matthew Howard
- Final Argument – John Jordan & Tyrone Moncriste
- Punishment and Mitigation – Eric Davis

Assignment for Class:

- Complete Jury Charge Worksheet
- Complete Close Worksheet

THEME: LEAVING THE NEST

**Tuesday, Nov. 17
(5:30PM-7:00PM)
TBA**

- Class reflection on assignments and experience
- Leveraging your externship
- Encourage your supervisor to attend

Statement on Class Calendar & Agenda Changes

This class agenda is subject to change. The professor will promptly update and alert students of any changes.

Textbook/Resource Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. Any required readings and materials will be made available by email.