

SYLLABUS: Environmental Law, Fall 2002

Instructors: Santo Longo, Esq.

Robin Chacon, Paralegal

Course Description:

This course is being co-taught by an environmental attorney and an environmental paralegal. The course will be a primer on all aspects of the practice of environmental law, including the major statutory and regulatory programs, as well as various instructional and practice tips, with an emphasis on how to succeed as a successful paralegal.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the successful student will:

1. Have a basic understanding of environmental legal requirements in the United States, including statutory, common law and constitutional requirements.
2. Be able to utilize available computer data bases and other research resources used to address environmental legal issues.
3. Have fully researched and analyzed an environmental legal issue typical of those presented to paralegals in the field, prepared an appropriate research memorandum in response to the question presented, and orally and graphically presented the student's research findings.

Text:

Federal and Environmental Law, 2002. The text will be available at the book drop off in Butterworth Hall on the first day of class, which will be Monday, October 28, 2002. Supplemental materials will be provided by the instructors and, as appropriate, will be available via Blackboard and/or through electronic reserve.

Communications:

The syllabus, all assignments and any other information that needs to be communicated regarding the class will be available via the Blackboard system, which can be accessed at blackboard.hartford.edu. The instructors will also make themselves available at other times upon request. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the instructors directly at the above-referenced numbers/addresses.

Requirements:

Students will complete weekly research and reading assignments, and are responsible for preparing for, and participating in, each class. Each student will also be responsible for conducting an independent research project and presenting their findings in class. A written summary will also be required for the research project. There will be one exam on the materials covered at the close of the course. Students will be graded on:

- (1) Independent Research Project and Written Summary - 30%;
- (2) Final Exam - 30%;
- (3) Other written assignments and in-class assignments - 20%; and
- (4) Class participation - 20%

Out of Class Work:

This is an "Academic Express" class requiring seven hours of instructional time in addition to the scheduled Monday evening classes. To satisfy this requirement, the class will travel to an off-site location to learn about environmental issues in the field on a date to be determined in the latter part of the course, depending upon the availability and schedules of the students participating. For any student who cannot participate in this event, an opportunity to make up these hours in a different manner will be provided.

Office Hours:

The instructors will be available during class breaks and following each class. In addition, both instructors will make themselves available at other times upon request.

CLASS SCHEDULE

October 28, 2002:

Topics: Course Introduction
Overview of Environmental "Laws" and "Regulations"
The "Road Salt Problem"
Role of the Environmental Paralegal

November 4, 2002:

Topics: Common Law Environmental Liability
Constitutional Aspects of Environmental Law
Use of LEXIS/NEXIS legal research tool (Demonstration)

Class Preparation: Reading materials to be provided by instructors
Bring 2-3 ideas for research project (in-class discussion)

November 11, 2002:

Topics: Statutory Bases for Liability
National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA")
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and
Liability Act ("CERCLA")
Resource Conservation and Act ("RCRA")
Computer-Based Statutory/Regulatory Research (Demonstration)

Class Preparation: Review NEPA, CERCLA and RCRA (a/k/a Solid Waste Disposal
Act) in Text
Additional reading materials to be provided by instructors
Bring final research project topic and 5 proposed research vehicles
to class (in-class discussion)

November 18, 2002:

Topics: Land Use Controls and Environmental Law
Regulation of Wetlands
Environmental "Due Diligence" for the Environmental Paralegal
(Demonstration)

Class Preparation: Review Federal Clean Water Act in text
Additional reading materials to be provided by instructors
Bring 1/2 page abstract of research memoranda
Prepare to discuss research findings for research project

November 25, 2002:

Topics: Regulation of Air Quality
Environmental Permitting
Environmental Paralegal work with federal and state agencies
Graphic Presentation Techniques (Demonstration)

Class Preparation: Review Clean Air Act in text
Additional readings to be provided by instructors
Prepare to discuss steps to finalize research project

December 2, 2002:

Topics: Clean Water Act.
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act ("FIFRA")
Toxic Substances Control Act ("TOSCA")
Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA")
Hazardous Materials Transportation Act
Endangered Species Act
Food and Drug and Cosmetic Act
Oil Pollution Act
Connecticut Transfer Act
Spill Reporting
Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act ("SARA Title III")

Class Preparation: Review referenced laws in text
Turn in written summary of research project
Prepare brief presentation of research project

December 9, 2002:

Topics: Continue topics from December 2
Review of class for final examination

Class Preparation: See December 2 entry
Prepare brief presentation of research project

December 16, 2002:

Final Examination in class