

To: All 2L and 3L JD students and all LLM students

Re: Mini-seminar series, Fall 2009

Once again, we will be offering mini-seminars both this fall and winter. As detailed below, they will meet with different frequencies and focus on different areas of substantive interest. Some of them will meet exclusively in the fall, some exclusively in the winter, and some will straddle both the fall and winter terms. There will be refreshments provided at all mini-seminars. All of the mini-seminars listed below will count for one academic credit and will be graded on a mandatory pass/fail basis. For mini-seminars which meet at professors' homes, addresses will be provided to students admitted to the mini-seminars. The mini-seminar offerings that will meet in the fall or will start in the fall and continue into the winter are as follows:

#400M1 Alicia Alvarez and Anne Schroth, "Working But Still Poor" – For one credit, for up to 12 students – Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 on September 29 (Schroth's house); October 6 (Alvarez's house); October 13 (Schroth's house); October 27 (Alvarez's house); November 3 (Schroth's house); and November 17 (Alvarez's house).

Description: It has been over a decade since our nation embarked on "welfare reform." Moving people from welfare to work was seen by many as a way to solve many of the problems of poverty. Yet many people in the United States still live in poverty even though they are working. This mini seminar will explore the issues faced by that "missing class."

#400M2 Rebecca Eisenberg, "Science Sagas" – For one academic credit, for up to 10 students – Evenings, 7:00-9:00, on the following dates: Wednesday, September 30; Wednesday, October 28; Wednesday, December 2; Monday, February 1; Monday, March 8; Monday, April 12. The meetings will take place at Professor Eisenberg's home, located about one mile from the Law School.

Description: At each meeting discussion will focus on a book that recounts an episode of scientific discovery that has raised vexing legal or policy questions. Students may receive one unit of pass-fail credit for reading all of the books and participating in all of the discussions. No written work is required. At the first meeting we will discuss Dava Sobel, *Longitude: The Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific of His Time* (Walker 1995). Books for the remaining sessions will be selected according to student interest and may include titles from the following list:

Steven Johnson, *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World* (Penguin 2006) (256 pp.); James D. Watson, *The Double Helix* (1968) (143 pp.); Lily Kay, *The Molecular Vision of Life: Caltech, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Rise of the New Biology* (Oxford 1993) (282 pp.); Barry Werth, *The Billion-Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug* (Simon & Schuster 1994) (429 pp.); Daniel J. Kevles, *The Baltimore Case: A Trial of Politics, Science, and Character* (Norton 1998) (388 pp.); David M. Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story* (Oxford 2005) (288 pp.); Nick Taylor, *Laser: The Inventor, The Nobel Laureate, and the Thirty-Year Patent War* (Simon & Schuster 2000) (287 pp.); Paul Rabinow, *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology* (University of Chicago Press 1996) (169 pp.); Steven Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (University of California 1996) (353 pp.); Kevin Davies, *Cracking the Genome: Inside the Race to Unlock Human DNA* (Free Press 2001) (251 pp.); James Shreve, *The Genome War: How Craig Venter Tried to Capture the Code of Life and*

Save the World (Ballantine 2005) (376 pp.); Rick Murdock & David Fisher, Patient Number One: A True Story of How One CEO Took on Cancer and Big Business in the Fight of His Life (Crown 2000) (295 pp.); Daniel Vasella with Robert Slater, Magic Cancer Bullet: How a Tiny Orange Pill is Rewriting Medical History (HarperBusiness 2003) (232 pp.); Fran Hawthorne, The Merck Druggernaut: The Inside Story of a Pharmaceutical Giant (Wiley 2003) (275 pp.); Kevin Davies & Michael White, Breakthrough: The Race to Find the Breast Cancer Gene (Wiley 1995) (275 pp.); Anne Sayre, Rosalind Franklin & DNA (1975) (200 pp.)

#400M3 Vic Khanna, “Hollywood, Bollywood, and the Law: The Globalization of the Entertainment Industry” – for one credit, for up to 12 students – Evenings, 6:00-8:00 on the following dates: September 30; October 28; December 1; February 11; March 11; and April 15 (the last three dates are subject to change) at locations TBA.

Description: This mini-seminar examines the role of the law and legal issues in the two largest movie industries in the world - Hollywood and Bollywood - and how they may be shaping the development of a global entertainment industry. We begin with a brief overview of Hollywood and Bollywood and may view some Bollywood movies to enrich our understanding of the industry. We then examine some issues raised by the increasing interaction between these two industries. We explore issues related to copyright (e.g., "borrowing" ideas, songs), financing of movies in both industries (e.g., the use of Initial Public Offerings to finance Bollywood films), distribution channels for both industries, joint ventures, and large scale cross-border investments between these two industries (e.g., the recent \$800 million plus investment commitment from an Indian firm into Hollywood ventures).

#400M4 Madeline Kochen, “Topics in Reproductive Rights” – for one credit, for up to 12 students – Wednesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 on September 30; October 28; December 2; February 3; March 10; and April 7 at Professor Kochen’s home.

Description: After reviewing the history and current state of the law involving reproductive rights we will examine and discuss an array of current issues from around the country. Broad ranging discussion will include everything from the politics of these matters to what it's like to be a Reproductive Rights lawyer. We will also spend an evening with the legislative director of the ACLU of Michigan to learn about what is going on in the Michigan Legislature involving reproductive rights, and what it's like to lobby on these issues.

#400M5 John Pottow and Reshma Jagsi (MD, DPhil, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology), “Law, Medicine, and Ethics” – For one credit, for up to 10 students – Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 on the following dates: September 29; October 13; October 27; November 10; November 17; and December 1. All meetings will be at Professors Pottow and Jagsi’s home (which is less than a mile from the Law School).

Description: In this mini-seminar, Professors Pottow and Jagsi will convene discussions on areas of ethical concern at the intersection of law and medicine. A different topic will be the focus of each week's session, and subjects to be covered will include the rationing of health care, abortion, human subjects research, and conflicts of interest. No background is required other than interest in the subject matter and the occasional reading of a newspaper (or even the watching of television news). The seminar will meet in the evening, and dinner will be served. Students may be called upon to resolve intellectual and marital conflicts between the instructors and then to engage in meta-analysis of the ethical issues arising.

#400M6 David Santacroce, “Learning the Law by Avoiding it in the Process” – For one credit, for up to 10 students – Wednesday evenings, 6:45-8:45 on the following dates: October 7; October 14; October 21; October 28; November 4; and November 11. All sessions will take place at Professor Santacroce’s home in Kerrytown (walkable from the Law School). Dinner will be served.

Description: In this mini-seminar you will decide from the facts of actual cases – and the facts only – what the law should be and why. Logic, instinct, experience, common sense, and all other mental and emotional processes that are the substance of the law and very much involved in its making are your guide. The only forbidden ingredients in the discussions are known or suspected law. Once, as a group, we reach a consensus (or stalemate), we will compare and contrast our conclusions - and their underlying rationale – to the court's actual decision. Our goal is to better understand the law as a solution to human problems and by doing so better equip participants for practice.

#400M7 Frank Vandervort and Steve Croley, “Documentary Work in the Law” – For one credit, for up to 12 students. Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 on the following dates: September 23; October 7, 14, and 21; November 11 and 18. All sessions will take place at either Professor Vandervort or Professor Croley’s home, both within a 15-20 minute drive from the Law School.

Description: Documentary work encompasses an effort to provide an authentic or realistic portrayal of an event through a particular lens or point of view. Documentary work may take any of numerous forms—non-fiction writing (which takes advantage of actual documents, interviews, historical methods), photography, film making, or poetry. This course seeks to inquire into broader questions about the law and its impact on individuals and communities beyond the documents—orders and opinions—produced by courts of law. In this course, through examination of various documentary forms we will explore the impact of people on the law and the impact of the law on people

#400M8 Beth Wilensky, “Food and the Law” – For one credit, for up to 12 students – Evenings from 7:30-9:30 on the following dates: Tuesday, October 13; Wednesday, October 28; Wednesday, November 18; Wednesday, January 27; Wednesday, February 17; and Thursday, March 25. The sessions will all be held at Professor Wilensky’s home in the northeast part of Ann Arbor (about a 10-minute drive from the Law School).

Description: Why is it that many foods labeled "organic" really aren't organic, while many truly organic foods can't be labeled as such? Can you copyright a recipe or "own" the genes to a vegetable? Is it paternalistic that New York City forbids restaurants from serving foods with trans fats, and in Chicago you can't order foie gras? This seminar will examine and these and other questions about modern laws about food. We'll also examine questions of food policy and food safety, and look at laws about food from a historical perspective. We'll even get to consume food during the seminar. (But probably not foie gras. Sorry!)

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

1. Students may list up to four (4) mini-seminars in order of preference during mini-seminar registration. However, we ask that you please limit your requests only to those mini-seminars in which you are truly interested and which you are actually available to attend.

2. Students are limited to ONE mini-seminar assignment per academic year (so if you get into a mini-seminar this fall, you are not eligible to enroll for a mini-seminar in the winter term).
3. There are almost always fewer seats in mini-seminars than there are students who seek to fill them. Therefore, if you are enrolled in a mini-seminar, you are expected to attend each session. Please do not sign up if you cannot make this commitment. Thank you.
4. No prof picks (please do not contact the professor about getting in).
5. Students who have been given permission to exceed the maximum credit load and who are currently already carrying 16 credits this semester are not eligible to enroll for a mini-seminar, since our accrediting agency (the ABA) prohibits a student from enrolling in more than 16 credits in a single semester.

Registration Process:

Interested students must send an e-mail message to Amy Bishop (albishop@umich.edu) with “Mini-seminar” typed in the Subject line. The message must include the following information:

- Full name (no nicknames, please)
- Uniqname
- Emplid number (listed on your U of M ID card)
- Mini-Seminar number (400M1, 400M2, etc.)
- Mini-Seminar title
- Professor’s (or professors’) full name(s)
- Order your requests 1 thru up to 4 (1 being your first choice, 2 being your second choice, etc.). Seats in mini-seminars will be allocated randomly, taking your preferences into account.

Deadline for signing up:

The submission deadline is Tuesday, September 15 at 5:00 PM.

Notification of assignments:

Assignment notification will be e-mailed by the afternoon of Friday, September 18.

Coming attractions – In the winter term, the following professors will be offering mini-seminars. Registration for these mini-seminars will not take place until January. If the professors have given us any descriptive or scheduling information, it appears in parentheses after the title of the mini-seminar:

Ted Becker, “Legal Issues, Rhetoric, and Practice During the American Civil War” (What lessons can modern lawyers draw from the ways in which attorneys, judges, and politicians handled the myriad legal issues leading up to and arising during the Civil War? Topics will likely include: 1) the Supreme Court's resolution of various legal issues raised by the onset of hostilities, emphasizing the rhetorical strategies of the advocates and Court, and how those strategies compare to choices a modern advocate or court might make; 2) the impact of the war on day-to-day legal practice; 3) the South's judicial system; and (because it would probably be malpractice of some form or another not to talk about Lincoln) 4) his interactions with the

Supreme Court, his role in the secession debates, and his legal career as a model of professional responsibility.)

Rich Friedman, “Rules of Play”

Don Herzog, “Separation of Church and State” (Too many people debate whether this (in)famous abstraction is a good or bad thing – without having any clear picture in their heads of what it might mean. We'll work through brief readings on various controversies, some historical and some contemporary, and some juxtapositions: for instance, antebellum Christian arguments (for and) against slavery with contemporary Christian arguments against abortion; Justice Scalia's ruminations on the death penalty and Governor Cuomo's on abortion.)

Gil Seinfeld, “Law and Popular Literature” (This mini-seminar will work as a book group. Before each meeting, we'll read a piece of pop. lit. that relates to the law (One-L; A Trial By Jury, etc.), and then we will gather and discuss. The goal of the seminar is to encourage students to reflect on their hopes and expectations for life in the law. Over-sharing is encouraged.)