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

Re: Mini-seminar series, Fall 2015

Once again, we will be offering upper-class 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:

“Fall only” mini-seminars

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>885/001</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Kate Andrias</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>&quot;Change the Law!&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>For one credit?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrollment cap</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Professor Andrias' home; one meeting may take place at a location TBA</td>
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<td>Dates</td>
<td>The following Thursdays: 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>From the Tea Party to Occupy Wall Street, from the Fight for $15 to Black Lives Matter, from the gay rights movement to the right-to-life movement, social movements shape law. This mini-seminar will explore the relationship between law, social movements, and social change. Using films and readings about historical and contemporary social movements, we will look at the centrality of social movements to legal change. We will ask what role lawyers play, and should play, in social movements’ efforts for change; what legal strategies social movements pursue; how legal institutions, legal doctrine, and legal actors themselves are changed by their engagement with social movements; why some rights emerge as viable political and legal claims at particular points in American history; and to what extent claims for legal rights clarify or confuse movements' underlying demands.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>885/002</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Nicole Appleberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Wellness for Lawyers</td>
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<td>For one credit?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Enrollment cap 10
Time 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location Professor Appleberry's home. She lives roughly 6.5 miles from the Law School. We anticipate that enough seminar participants will own cars to provide transportation for all the participants.
Dates The following Mondays: 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9
Description This mini-seminar explores wellness with a particular emphasis on mindfulness, finding and maintaining a sense of purpose, and related practices that help us develop and flourish in careers we love, be effective and efficient law students and lawyers, and cultivate happiness. What does "mindfulness" mean? How do we achieve it? How does it work? What does it do for us as lawyers? As human beings? How do we sustain wellness practices during law school, and later under the pressure of billable hours and challenging clients, colleagues, and judges? Students will discuss readings and also have an opportunity to advance their own wellness practices. The mini-seminar will be an incense-free zone, but snacks will be served.

Course # 885/003
Professor Alicia Davis
Title Elizabeth Warren and Financial Reform
For one credit? Yes
Enrollment cap 12
Time 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location Professor Davis' home
Dates The following Wednesdays: 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28
Description In this mini-seminar, we will discuss reform proposals championed by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, including those related to financial institution regulation, tax policy, consumer protection, trade policy, and entitlement expansion. We will undertake a critical analysis of these proposals and explore the question of whether important policy goals would likely be achieved by adoption of Sen. Warren’s proposed reforms.

Course # 885/004
Professor Dana Thompson
Title Detroit: Pre and Post Bankruptcy
For one credit? Yes
Enrollment cap 10
Time 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location Professor Thompson's home
Dates The following Tuesdays: 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17
Detroit's bankruptcy has wide ranging implications for numerous individuals including policy makers in the city of Detroit, state of Michigan and other municipalities around the U.S. grappling with similar issues, residents of the city, pensioners, business and civic leaders and lawyers. This mini-seminar will explore the factors that led to the city's historic decision to enter bankruptcy, the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, 24 months ago. Students will learn about the more intricate issues such as the racial, economic and political issues facing one of America’s most misunderstood yet crucial urban cities. Central to the discussions will be the changing dynamics of the city’s political leadership dating back to its political leaders in the early and middle part of the twentieth century, its first black mayor Coleman A. Young to its first white mayor in 40 years, Mike Duggan. We’ll also discuss the evolving role of the media, state and federal policymakers, civic and business leaders, entrepreneurs as well as residents among other stakeholders. Bankole Thompson will be a frequent speaker during the mini-seminar sessions. He's a distinguished journalist, author, columnist for the Detroit News, and host of “Redline, with Bankole Thompson”, a weekly public affairs show on WDET, NPR-Detroit Public Radio. For almost a decade he served as senior editor of the Michigan Chronicle, the state's oldest and largest black newspaper. Students will review documentaries and read various articles and books to further explore these issues.

“Fall/Winter” mini-seminars

Course # 885/005
Professor Nick Bagley and Kristina Daugirdas
Title Contagion
For one credit? Yes
Enrollment cap 12
Time 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Location Professor Bagley and Daugirdas' home
Dates The following Tuesdays: 9/22, 10/13, 11/10, 1/19, 2/16, 3/8
Description

This six-class, in-home seminar, taught over the course of the school year, will focus on the law—state, federal, and international—of global pandemics. Individual classes will cover cholera, flu, AIDS, SARS, and Ebola, seeking to understand why regulatory responses succeeded or failed, their legal consequences, and the way they influenced the response to the next outbreak. Nineteenth-century battles with cholera, for example, spurred New York City to create the nation’s first public health agency. They also prompted states to cooperate on the international plane, an effort that culminated in 1903 with the first multilateral treaty regulating infectious diseases. Among other things, assigned reading will likely include Charles Rosenberg’s The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866, John Barry’s definitive history of the 1918 Spanish flu, The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History, and Randy Shilts’s And the Band Played On. We’ll focus particular attention on the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, the agencies that will be at the center of the global response to any future outbreak.

Course # 885/006
Professor Martha Jones and Julian Mortenson
Title Outsiders: Memoir and the Fault Lines of Identity
For one credit? Yes
Enrollment cap 10
Time 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Location Professor Jones' and Mortensons' homes (alternating sessions)
Dates The following Wednesdays in the fall term: 9/23, 10/28, 11/18; the following Tuesdays in the winter term: 2/9, 3/8, 4/5
Ta-Nehisi Coates’s best-selling *Between the World and Me*, published just this summer, is a sophisticated reflection on the racial divide in America that manages to be at once passionate, informed, poetic, and blunt. This seminar will begin by reading the book itself and two important intellectual precursors: Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845) and James Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time* (1963). We’ll discuss the social and historical issues raised by each book, and how they help us understand both persistent and changing racial fault lines that have recaptured the nation’s attention over the past year. We’ll also explore the social psychology of outsiderhood that each work engages. Drawing on the latter theme, the second half of the course will turn to three memoirs, each of which grapples with difference, identity, and the insider/outside dynamic: Sonya Sotomayor’s *My Beloved World*; Mary Karr’s *Lit*; and Eddie Huang’s *Fresh Off the Boat*. Overall, these six works share a preoccupation with the role of “outsiders” in society and the persistent cultural tension between individuality, group identity, normativity, and belonging. Sotomayor’s memoir, which is very much in the tradition of Douglass and Baldwin, also opens up a new discussion about how education, professionalization, and becoming a lawyer can influence one’s position and identity.

Course # 885/007  
Professor Doug Kahn and JJ Prescott  
Title Theater and the Moral Foundations of the Law  
For one credit? Yes  
Enrollment cap 10  
Time 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Location Professor Kahn’s home, which is about six miles from the Law School. We anticipate that enough seminar participants will own cars to provide transportation for all the participants.  
Dates The class will meet on ONLY six of the following Mondays. The professors anticipate meeting once or twice in the fall, with the remaining meetings occurring in the winter. Dates will be finalized well in advance of any particular meeting: 10/5, 10/12, 11/30, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 3/7, 3/14, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11
Over the course of six two-hour meetings, we will discuss plays (one per meeting) that deal explicitly (or implicitly) with the law and raise moral dilemmas and questions that are relevant to legal practice. The mini-seminar will work just like a book club. Students will read the play assigned for a given meeting in advance. The group will then meet for approximately two hours (from approximately 7 to 9pm) at Doug Kahn’s home for unstructured discussion of the work, its characters, its author, its context, and its implications for law practice and life. The mini-seminar requires no particular background in theater—it’s perfect for the law student who is an expert in theater (like Prof. Kahn), for the law student who is a complete novice (like Prof. Prescott), or for the student who is somewhere in between, but just wants to read and think about something new and different once in a while. Dinner for each meeting will be provided. Profs Kahn and Prescott will select six plays; the tentative choices (along with alternatives) are listed below. Play selection will remain open to suggestions until after students have been selected for the seminar. Tentative List of Plays: Billy Budd (Louis O. Coxe and Robert Chapman); A Doll’s House (Henrik Ibsen); Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (Jeffrey Archer); The Devil and Daniel Webster (Steven Vincent Benét); The Children’s Hour (Lillian Hellman); Tiger at the Gates (Jean Giraudoux, translated by Christopher Fry). “Close Second” Alternatives: Separate Tables (Terence Rattigan); Suspect (Edward Percy and Reginald Denham); Anatomy of a Murder (Elihu Winer); The Doctor’s Dilemma (George Bernard Shaw); The Kindertransport (Diane Samuels).

Course # 885/008
Professor Carl Schneider
Title Collecting Art: Museums and the Law
For one credit? Yes
Enrollment cap 10
Time 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location The seminar will meet at Prof. Schneider’s home in order to make use of his photography collection in the seminar’s discussions. He lives roughly ten miles from Ann Arbor. We anticipate that enough seminar participants will own cars to provide transportation for all the participants.

Dates The following Mondays: 9/21, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 1/25, 2/22
Description: The United States is one of the rare countries whose museums are (with few exceptions) not owned by the government. But the way museums collect and use art poses many intriguing questions which law addresses. Using both cases and case studies, this seminar will investigate some of them. Topics will include: (1) What principles (legal and otherwise) should govern disputes over cultural artifacts like the Elgin marbles? (2) How should we regulate disputes over the return of art whose ownership became contested during and after the Second World War? (3) What authority should museums have to deaccession art and how should it be exercised? (4) What authority do trustees (like the trustees of the Barnes Foundation) have to alter the terms of gifts to museums? (5) Has the American experiment of subsidizing museums indirectly succeeded?

Course # 885/009  
Professor Beth Wilensky  
Title The Stories Behind the Supreme Court Cases  
For one credit? Yes  
Enrollment cap 10  
Time 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
Location Professor Wilensky’s home (about two miles from the Law School)  
Dates 10/5, 10/21, 11/11, 1/19, 2/9, 3/14  
Description Who were Mildred and Richard Loving, and how did they come to be involved in the litigation that struck down laws prohibiting interracial marriage? Why did the criminal defendants in *Lawrence v. Texas* agree to plead no contest to charges of illegal sodomy when the evidence clearly showed they were innocent of the charges? Why is the 100-year-old little pink house in *Kelo v. City of New London* still standing if the state won the right to tear it down? In law school, nearly everything we learn about a Supreme Court case comes from the Court’s opinion. But there is a lot of other fascinating stuff to learn about many of these cases: the stories of the participants (how did they get involved? where are they now?), how the media covered the cases before and after the decision, the arguments the parties’ attorneys made in their briefs, etc. In this mini-seminar, we will discuss all of those other things behind some of the Supreme Court’s most well-known cases. At our first meeting, we will work together to come up with a list of cases that we want to learn more about.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

1. No prof picks (please do not contact the professor about getting in).

2. Students may list up to nine (9) mini-seminars in order of preference. 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. Failure to attend even one mini-seminar session may result in your not receiving credit. If you drop a mini-seminar after you have been enrolled, you may be precluded from enrolling in mini-seminars in future terms.**

3. **New rule effective starting Fall 2015:** Students who have not previously been enrolled in an upper-class mini-seminar will be given preference over students who have previously been enrolled in an upper-class mini-seminar.

4. 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 the rules of our accrediting agency (the ABA) prohibit a student from enrolling in more than 16 credits in a single semester.

5. Students who will be graduating this December (mostly sixth-term summer starters) are only eligible to enroll for fall term mini-seminars.

Registration Process:
Interested students will use CBI to enroll in mini-seminars. You can find the link to CBI under the “Registration” link on the Office of Student Records web page. Rank all mini-seminars for which you would like to bid in the CBI queue, with the first being your first choice, the second being your second choice, etc.

Seats for mini-seminars are assigned randomly, except that students who have previously been enrolled in an upper-class mini-seminar are not considered for seats until after students who have never been enrolled in an upper-class mini-seminar, as noted above. Proximity to graduation is not taken into account. That means a first-term 2L and a first term LLM have the same chance of getting into a mini-seminar as a second term 3L.

Unlike in the usual CBI registration process for regular fall and winter term classes, during mini-seminar registration we place a higher priority on making sure that each mini-seminar gets filled than on making sure students get the mini-seminars they want most. Therefore, although your preferences will be taken into account, it is quite possible that you will be assigned a mini-seminar that is low on your list of choices. **So, please list only those mini-seminars that you are absolutely certain you are willing to take.**

Deadline for signing up:
**You must submit your requests in CBI by Monday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m.**

Notification of assignments:
Assignment results will be available in CBI by the close of business on Friday, September 18. An announcement will be made on MLawLive when results are ready to view in CBI.
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 a description, we have included it, along with the title, below:

**Professor** Margaret Hannon  
**Title** #EmploymentLaw: Employment Law and Social Media  
**Description** This mini-seminar will focus on social media in the context of employment law. Our discussion topics will include (1) when and how social media can be used in pre-hiring background checks; (2) whether employers should monitor employees’ social media posts and what policies employers should have for use of social media by employees; (3) under what circumstances social media activity can be used as grounds for employee termination or discipline; (4) when an employer may be liable for employees’ social media posts; (5) how to determine whether social media content authored by an employee belongs to the employee or the employer; and (6) when and how social media can ethically be used by attorneys in the course of employment-related litigation. In the course of our discussion, we will consider the perspective of both the employee and employer.

**Professor** Scott Hershovitz  
**Title** Assholes, Bullshit, and the Law  
**Description** Why are so many lawyers assholes? Is there something about the profession that encourages it? Or requires it? And why is so much of what lawyers say bullshit? In this mini-seminar, we’ll read some philosophy, in an effort to clarify these scatological concepts. We'll think about legal ethics, and what part the profession’s rules might play in the problem. Finally, we'll talk about asshole management; we'll try to figure out what to do when you encounter an asshole in the wild, which you surely will.

**Professor** Steve Ratner  
**Title** The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Does International Law Matter?  
**Description** A lasting settlement to the seventy-year long conflict between Israel, on the one hand, and the Palestinians and Arab states, on the other, seems as elusive as ever. Lawyers have played a key role in public debate and negotiations over this issue, as the legal aspects are extraordinarily important to understanding the claims and grievances of the parties and the possibilities of a final peace. In this mini-seminar, we will explore see whether international law helps our understanding of this conflict by examining six issues: Zionism and the creation of the State of Israel; the Six Day War and the status of the Occupied Palestinian Territories; the Israeli regime of occupation of the West Bank and Gaza (including the Separation Barrier); the recent wars in Gaza; the right of return for Palestinians; and the status of Jerusalem. No background in the conflict or international law is required.
**Professor**    Sonja Starr  
**Title**    "The Wire"  
**Description**    In this mini-seminar, we will watch and discuss Season 1 of The Wire, the epic examination of criminal justice, crime, and the failures of public institutions that is widely described as the greatest television series of all time. The sessions will be longer than the typical mini-seminar to accommodate watching and discussing the episodes. Students who have never watched The Wire are especially encouraged to apply. Students who have watched The Wire are on notice that a strict "no spoilers" policy will be in effect.