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

Re: Mini-seminar series, Fall 2018

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 2018 MINI-SEMINARS**

**LAW 885 / 001 – How We Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors:</th>
<th>Bridgette Carr and Vivek Sankaran</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offered:</td>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit:</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Enrollment Cap:</td>
<td>12</td>
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**Meeting Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Thursdays: 9/27, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/15 and 12/6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Prof. Carr’s and Prof. Sankaran’s homes (5-6 miles from the Law School)</td>
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**Description**

The average person will spend more than 90,000 hours at work. The average lawyer likely spends more. This seminar will explore how we organize our time at work to create meaningful and satisfying professional lives. We will do this by reading and discussing three books: *Essentialism* by Greg McKeown which explores how we approach tasks and obligations; *When* by Daniel Pink which talks about how the timing of tasks affects how we work; and *The Culture Code* by Daniel Code which discusses how we can create organizations in which employees flourish. We will also supplement the readings by watching TED talks related to these issues. The hope is to equip all of us with some tools to make our work lives more fulfilling.

**LAW 885 / 002 – Rules of Play**

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<th>Instructor:</th>
<th>Richard Friedman</th>
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<td>Enrollment Cap:</td>
<td>12</td>
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**Meeting Information**
Dates: Sundays: 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18 and 12/2
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Professor Friedman’s home (about 1.5 miles from the Law School).
Dinner will be served.

Description
The basic idea of this mini-seminar is to treat sports, and other games, seriously as legal systems—you don’t know what a game is until you know the rules—and to examine problems that they raise. Issues include: How should we determine a winner (and do we have to)? How should a tournament or post-season play be structured? What constitutes misconduct, and how should it be sanctioned? What is the proper role of officials, and how, if at all, should their errors be corrected? With a co-author, I have a draft textbook on the subject, and portions of that will be a basis for discussion; the exact topics may depend to a large extent on student choice. Students will be expected to submit a one-page memo for each class session discussing some problem or issue in the rules of sports or other games.

LAW 885 / 003 – Lovable Crooks, Despicable Lawyers
Instructor: Don Herzog
Offered: Fall 2018
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information
Dates: Thursdays: 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15 and 11/29
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Professor Herzog’s home (about ¾ mile from the Law School)

Description
There is a centuries-old tradition of celebrating criminals and vilifying lawyers. We’ll read fiction and nonfiction stretching from seventeenth-century England to today’s United States and try to sort out who the good guys are—and just what it might mean to be a good guy.

LAW 885 / 004 – Sherlock Holmes on Criminal Justice and Forensic Science
Instructor: Imran Syed
Offered: Fall 2018
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information
Dates: Tuesdays: 10/2, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13 and 11/27
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Professor Syed’s home (about 20-min. drive from the Law School)
The world's most famous (fictional) detective had a surprising level of concern regarding police overreach, wrongful convictions and the usefulness/limits of forensic science—issues that continue to be critical in the (non-fictional) criminal justice system today. In this mini-seminar, students will read a handful of short stories from the Sherlock Holmes canon and in "class" we will discuss the criminal justice issues presented in the stories, how the understanding of those particular issues has evolved in the 100+ years since the Sherlock Holmes stories were written, and what if anything we present-day lawyers might take from the stories to inform modern reforms. British-themed snacks provided.

FULL YEAR 2018-19 MINI-SEMINARS

LAW 885 / 005 – Economic Inequality

Instructor:  Kate Andrias
Offered:  Full Year 2018-19
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  10

Description

In recent years, economic inequality in the United States has reached levels not seen since the Gilded Age. This mini-seminar will take a book club approach to examining the problem of economic inequality, including its relationship to race and gender, to democracy, and to both urban and rural life. For each session, we will read a recent work of non-fiction (with possibly a week of fiction or film mixed in). Though most of the books we read will not be legal texts, we will use the reading to examine how law contributes to and can remedy inequality. We will meet over the course of two semesters. Students will be asked to co-lead discussion of one of the books.

LAW 885 / 006 – Reading Banned Books for Credit

Instructors:  Bridget McCormack and Len Niehoff
Offered:  Full Year 2018-19
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  10

Meeting Information

Dates:  Monday 11/5 and Wednesdays: 10/3, 12/5, 2/6, 3/13, and 4/10
Time:  7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Justice McCormack’s home (about 15-min. drive from the Law School), unless otherwise announced.

Description
This mini-seminar will explore the politics, social dynamics, and legal dimensions of censorship through the reading and discussion of books that have been banned within the United States or other countries. Each student will be responsible for selecting a book, conducting research into its author and the details of its suppression, and leading the discussion of the text and its history. Students will be expected to read all of the books selected so they can fully participate in each meeting.

LAW 885 / 007 – Investigating the President

Instructor: Sonja Starr
Offered: Full Year 2018-19
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 11

Meeting Information
Dates: Wednesdays: 9/26, 10/24, 11/28, 1/23, 2/27 and 3/27
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Location: Professor Starr’s home (about 1.6 miles from the Law School)

Description
In this mini-seminar, we will analyze from a legal perspective the latest developments in the various ongoing investigations involving current and former members of the Presidential administration and the 2016 presidential campaign. The specific topics will depend on the evolution of the investigations (some of which may, of course, end during the course of the seminar), but could include the Mueller investigation into Russian election interference, investigations into past business dealings, investigations of payoffs and nondisclosure agreements related to alleged personal indiscretions, etc. Although it is understood that all participants will naturally have political preferences (and with luck we will have a group in which these preferences are widely varied), our primary focus will be on law rather than politics, insofar as they are separable. Our goal will be to come to an honest and balanced appraisal of the legal and factual merits of the various theories being discussed, considering the strongest arguments on both sides. Students will be expected to stay generally current on ongoing events and to read or listen to articles or podcasts sent before each session by Professor Starr, and participate in occasional virtual discussions of developments in the news, via email or the course website. Each student will also pick a particular “beat” to follow in more depth throughout the year, serving as our group expert on that topic in each session’s discussion.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

1. Interested students will use the Law School's Class Bidding system to bid for mini-seminars. Class Bidding will open on the first day of classes to accept mini-seminar bids. To access Class Bidding, go to https://www.law.umich.edu/classbidding.

2. Students may list up to seven (7) 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. 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. 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.

4. Unlike in the usual Class Bidding 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.

5. No “prof picks” (please do not contact the professor about getting in).

6. Students who have been given permission to exceed the maximum credit load and who are currently already carrying 17 credits this semester are not eligible to enroll for a mini-seminar, since the rules of our accrediting agency (the ABA) prohibit such a student from enrolling in more than 17 credits in a single semester.

7. Students who will be graduating this December (mostly sixth-term summer starters) are only eligible to enroll for fall term mini-seminars (885/001, 885/002, 885/003, and 885/004).

Timing and Deadlines

Mini-seminar registration begins Tuesday, September 4. You must submit your requests in Class Bidding by Friday, September 7 at 5:00 PM. Assignment results will be available in Class Bidding on Tuesday, September 11. An announcement will be made on MLaw Live when results are ready to view in Class Bidding. Class permissions will be entered into
Wolverine Access for students to enroll themselves in their assigned mini-seminar. Selected students will receive an automated “Class Permission” email prompting them to enroll. **Students must enroll in Wolverine Access before the drop/add period ends on Wednesday, September 12 or forfeit their mini-seminar assignment.**

**Coming Attractions**

In the winter term, the following professors will be offering upper-class 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:

**WINTER 2019 (UPPER CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS**

**Housing Insecurity and the Right to the City**

Instructor: Alicia Alvarez

Offered: Winter 2019

Description

Forthcoming

**Beyond the Headlines of the Immigration Crisis**

Instructor: Elizabeth Campbell

Offered: Winter 2019

Description

There have been rapid and significant changes in immigration policy and practice over the last two years including the “Muslim Ban,” the treatment of refugee and asylum seekers, the cancellation of DACA, family separation at the border and a myriad of complex and less publicized practices. The justification for many of these changes is an assertion that we have been experiencing an immigration crisis. In this mini-seminar we will explore if there is an immigration crisis, and if so, what are the origins and impacts of it. We will discuss how the population of undocumented immigrants grew to 11 million, the advantages and disadvantages of Executive-branch courts, the legality of these changes, and the proposed reforms to the immigration system.

**Learning the Law by Avoiding It**

Instructor: David Santacroce

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 10

Offered: Winter 2019

Meeting Information

Dates: Wednesdays: TBA

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Professor Santacroce’s home (about one mile from the Law School)
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.

**International and Comparative Juvenile Justice**

Instructor: Kim Thomas

Offered: Winter 2019

**Description**

Forthcoming

**How US Policies Segregated America**

Instructor: Dana Thompson

Offered: Winter 2019

**Description**

Forthcoming