To: All 2L and 3L JD students and all LLM students
Re: Upper-class mini-seminar series, Winter 2019

Each year, the Law School offers mini-seminars aimed at giving students and faculty the opportunity to enjoy discussions about the law in a relaxed and informal setting. As detailed below, each mini-seminar focuses on a different area of substantive interest. There will be refreshments provided at all mini-seminars. All the upper-class 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. Five mini-seminars will be offered this winter.

WINTER 2019 (UPPER-CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS

**LAW 885 / 001 – Beyond the Headlines of the Immigration Crisis**

Instructor: Elizabeth Campbell  
Offered: Winter 2019  
Credit: 1  
Enrollment Cap: 10

**Meeting Information**

Dates: Thursdays: 2/7, 2/21, 2/28, 3/14, 4/4 and 4/18  
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM  
Location: Professor Campbell's home (about 2½ miles from the Law School)

**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 impact 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.

**LAW 885 / 002 – Evicted: Housing Insecurity and the Right to the City**

Instructor: Alicia Alvarez  
Offered: Winter 2019  
Credit: 1  
Enrollment Cap: 10

**Meeting Information**

Time:  6:30-8:30 PM
Location:  Professor Alvarez’s home in Detroit.
Students will need to secure their own transportation. Students are encouraged to explore carpooling, cab services (Uber, Lyft, etc.), or short-term car rentals such as Maven. For students concerned about transportation, after registration contact Barbara Vibbert (bivibb@umich.edu) for a list of enrolled students interested in carpooling.

Description
This mini seminar will use the book Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond (winner of the Pulitzer Prize) as the main text. The seminar will explore housing insecurity in cities across the U.S. We will explore these issues through readings and meetings with experts and activists in the city of Detroit working on various housing insecurity issues (e.g. evictions, affordable housing, access to water, tax foreclosure, and land speculation). This seminar will explore law as a tool used both to protect and dispossess people of their homes.

LAW 885 / 003 – How U.S., State and Local Policies Segregated America
Instructor: Dana Thompson
Offered: Winter 2019
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  10
Meeting Information
   Dates:  Thursdays:  2/7, 2/21, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, and 4/4
   Time:  7:00-9:00 PM
   Location:  Professor Thompson's home (about four miles from the Law School)
Description
This mini-seminar challenges the notion that de facto segregation perpetrated by individual, private actors primarily caused residential segregation. It explores the U.S., state and local government racially discriminatory policies that created and reinforced racially segregated cities, towns and municipalities throughout the United States. We will read a number of books, articles and other resources including Richard Rothstein’s book “The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.” We will also view documentaries and other programs about residential segregation in the U.S. We will discuss how and why residential areas in the U.S. continue to be racially segregated and the modern day impact of these policies on education, housing, wealth and beyond in the U.S. Considering the evidence presented by Rothstein and others, we will discuss how we could move forward and redress the inequality these government actions created.
LAW 885 / 004 – International and Comparative Juvenile Justice

Instructor:  Kim Thomas
Offered:  Winter 2019
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  10

Meeting Information

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Professor Thomas’ home (about one mile from the Law School)

Description

In this mini-seminar, we will consider the international legal protections for youth in conflict with the law and a range of implementations in systems of youth justice. Our discussion will include examination of the goals of the youth justice system, who is within the jurisdiction of youth justice, what is required for a “fair trial,” sentencing regimes, and detention. For this mini-seminar, we will over-sample from the European Union, particularly Ireland, and the United States, but I hope also to consider other countries and contexts.

LAW 885 / 005 – Learning the Law by Avoiding It

Instructor:  David Santacroce
Offered:  Winter 2019
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  10

Meeting Information

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Professor Santacroce’s home (about one mile from the Law School)

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.
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 five (5) 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 enroll, 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 in 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.

Timing and Deadlines

Mini-seminar registration begins Wednesday, January 16. **You must submit your requests in Class Bidding by Monday, January 21 at 5:00 PM.** Assignment results will be available in Class Bidding on Wednesday, January 23. 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 Thursday, January 24 or forfeit their mini-seminar assignment.**