

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW (LAW) (LPI)

LPI 912 - Fundamentals of Law Practice

Credits: 3

Through criminal and civil simulations, students will 1. experience the excitement and challenges of working with individual clients; 2. practice lawyering skills, including managing projects, interviewing, counseling, negotiating, developing facts, and applying statutes and cases; and 3. observe, reflect, and learn from their classmates' and their own performances. Students will regularly practice new skills and receive feedback from classmates, TA, and teacher. The final course grade will be based on overall professional engagement - 50%, and several written pleadings and papers - 50%. Professional engagement encompasses a number of factors, including class preparation assignments, performance in short and long simulations, feedback to classmates, reflection and self-assessment, ability to learn from feedback, and engagement in classroom discussion. Eligibility: Open to 1Ls only. Course format: skills training. Grading: professional engagement 50%; other - see syllabus, 50%. This course cannot be taken for an S/U grade.

LPI 914 - Dispute Resolution

Credits: 3

The vast majority of cases are resolved prior to trial. This course focuses on effective representation of a client's interests using resolution techniques before trial. Students will learn to negotiate directly, including how to deal with the many tactics employed by negotiating parties. They will also gain an understanding of when to consider mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law and how to effectively represent clients in these processes. We will critically examine negotiation, mediation, arbitration and collaborative law, including the legal, ethical and policy issues associated with each process. Classes include lecture, discussion and extensive participatory exercises. Reflective writing is an integral component of the course. Eligibility: Open to 2Ls and 3Ls. Course format: simulation. Grading: other (see syllabus), 100%. This course may be taken for an S/U grade.

LPI 928 - Lobbying and the Legislative Process

Credits: 2

This course is designed as a seminar to introduce students to the legislative process and the role of lawyers in legislative advocacy and policymaking. The course will offer students a fundamental overview of the processes and steps for the enactment of legislation, the manner in which legislative texts and legislative history are important to lawyers and the courts, and the connection between lawyers, legislation and the creation of public policy. In addition, students will be directly exposed to lawmaking in action by attending legislative hearings at the NH State House, meeting with state legislators, and interacting with lobbyists who advocate before the state legislature. Through practical exercises, students will develop skills in conducting policy analysis as background for lawmaking, drafting written testimony, and making oral presentations to legislative committees. This class is particularly appropriate for students who want to enhance their exposure to lawyering for social justice. Eligibility: Open to all except 1Ls and students who are current or former members of the NH General Court. Course format: seminar. Grading: class prep. and participation, 30%; research paper, 30%; other (see syllabus), 40%. This course may be taken for an S/U grade.