Spring 2021 Calendar

Any questions regarding courses should be directed to the Vice Dean. Some changes in the course schedule may be required. Classes will be held on holidays unless noted below. Courses offered may be subject to cancellations if there are fewer than 10 students enrolled for the course two weeks prior to the first day of class.

Spring registration begins in November 2020

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Upper division, Straus, and LLM students may elect High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail once all grades are posted.
NOTICES

ADVANCE ASSIGNMENTS FOR INTENSIVE COURSES AND OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS  A class syllabus including any advance reading and/or writing assignments for intensive classes will be emailed to students 3-4 weeks prior to the start of class. Please note that it is each student’s responsibility to review the syllabus well before the class begins and complete any advance assignments. Students who show up the first day unprepared risk being dropped from the class. If a student intends to miss one or more classes for religious observance in an intensive course (i.e., one that runs for a shorter period than a regular semester term), he or she must notify the Academic Dean prior to registering for that intensive course to determine whether such absences would fundamentally alter the nature of the intensive course.

RESCHEDULING EXAMS  It is important for everyone to be aware of the exam rescheduling policy in the event you enroll in one or more classes with a final exam. Students may not petition to reschedule a final exam unless two final exams are to be taken on the same day. Therefore, it is important for you to pay attention to the final exam schedule when you are selecting your courses. Petitions to change one of two exams scheduled for the same day must be filed by the seventh week of classes. For additional details concerning the law school final exam policies go to https://community.pepperdine.edu/law/admissions-student-info-services/forms.htm

UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVE COURSES
Courses offered may be subject to cancellation if there are fewer than 10 students enrolled for the course two weeks prior to the first day of class.

UPPER DIVISION EXPERIENTIAL COURSE WORK
All students beginning the first year of their JD program after May 1, 2014, are required to have completed at least 15 units of practice-based, experiential course work or their equivalent. Courses approved by the Academic Dean as counting towards the upper division experiential course work requirement will be identified in the course schedule for each semester. For more information about these requirements, please see section 14.13 of the Academic Policy Statement at https://community.pepperdine.edu/law/academics/academic-policies.htm

UPPER DIVISION WRITING REQUIREMENT
The faculty has enacted an upper division writing requirement as mandated for all law schools by the ABA. Courses that provide an opportunity to fulfill the writing requirement for students are identified in the schedule. For more information about these requirements, please see section 14.12 of the Academic Policy Statement https://community.pepperdine.edu/law/academics/academic-policies.htm
Clinical, Externship and Practicum Course Notes

Clinics
Clinics are upper-division, elective courses in which students practice law under the supervision of clinical faculty. Students receive credit for the scheduled, required class sessions and for work in the clinic.

In Spring 2021, the clinics will pursue tech solutions and practical steps to avoid in-person exposure where practices permit it. When practice requires meeting with clients, attending court, or other in-person work, we will use best practice to protect student safety. We will require masks and distancing, will be diligent in cleaning spaces, and will reduce time in person as much as we can to sustain a professionally responsible practice.

The Community Justice Clinic, Restoration and Justice Clinic, Faith and Family Mediation Clinic, and the Disaster Relief Clinic will meet and work remotely; students and professors will determine the work schedule for students in clinical practice that may need to be conducted in person.

For the Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic, students must apply and register with the approval of the professors, and students must commit to working two semesters in the clinic. Classes and most work will be conducted remotely, except for oral argument at the end of the second semester. Until the Ninth Circuit resumes in-person oral arguments, students who choose to do so can present argument from the mock courtroom at the professors’ law firm in Burbank.

In the Legal Aid and Low Income Taxpayer Clinics, all client-facing work will be conducted remotely.

The Mediation Clinic course will be taught online. It is likely that both on the ground day of hearing mediators at the Court (following all Court social distancing protocols) will be needed as well as conciliators who will be working online. There is an application process for registration for the Mediation Clinic and enrollment will be limited.

Clinics count towards the 15-unit experiential learning requirement. All clinics are graded as High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail.

Practicums

In Pepperdine’s practicum courses, students work in specialized field placements under supervision of experienced practitioners and with enhanced rigor and focus from expert faculty at either Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA) or the Ventura County Public Defender's Office. Students earn 4 units of credit for two full days of fieldwork each week of the semester at the collaborating agencies.

In the Public Interest Practicum, work with NLSLA in its practice representing individuals in its various practice areas, including Housing, Bankruptcy, Family Law (focusing on domestic
violence practice), Public Benefits, Immigration, Disaster Relief, Self-Help, and Clean-Slate advocacy.

In the Veterans Law Practicum, students work with the Public Defender in its practice for veterans in the Collaborative Courts within the Ventura County Superior Court, including the Veterans Treatment Court, Homeless Court, Mental Health Court, Stand Down Court, and others.

To apply, interested students should submit a letter of application to express and explain their interest in the work, a resume and a writing sample to Professor Baker (jeff.baker@pepperdine.edu) and the Clinical Program Manager (clinickallaw@pepperdine.edu).

Practice counts towards the 15 unit experiential learning requirement. All practice are graded as High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail.

**Externships**

Students interested in participating in an externship should complete the Externship Checklist (https://law.pepperdine.edu/experiential-learning/clinical-education/externships/checklist.htm) by the last day of the add/drop period. Students may not register themselves for externship courses; the Clinical Program Manager will process their enrollment after the Externship Checklist has been completed.

Students must register for an externship by the deadline for add/drop. Students who secure a field placement after the add/drop deadline may petition to register past the externship registration deadline. Note that petitions must be approved by the Director of Externships, the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education, and the Vice-Dean for Academics.

Each unit of externship credit requires 52.5 hours of work at the student's field placement, and students must register in advance for the number of units for which they will work. Students may earn up to 10 units per term.

Students in their first externship must attend a mandatory, bi-weekly workshop. If they are not able to attend a workshop, first-time externships may identify a faculty advisor whom they will meet with on a bi-weekly basis. Students who are taking externships for the second or third term are not required to attend the workshops but must participate in on-going, contemporaneous, faculty-guided reflection as designated by the Director of Externships.

Prospective externs must secure their own placements. New placements are eligible for approval if they meet the clinical program's educational objectives and afford adequate field supervision. Private law firms will be approved if they are either (1) nonprofit public interest entities (cf. section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code), regardless of whether the student is paid or unpaid, or (2) a for-profit entity where the student is paid.

Externships count towards the 15 unit experiential learning requirement. All externships are graded as High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail.
Washington, D.C., Externship Semester
Students completing an externship as part of the Washington, D.C., Externship Semester must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and must enroll (subject to limited exceptions) in 9 or 10 units of externship. Professor Nancy Hunt (nancy.w.hunt@pepperdine.edu) must approve all externship placements. The general requirements for externships, including that students must be doing legal work and must be supervised by an attorney, apply to the Washington Semester. All Washington Semester students must attend the bi-weekly Washington Externship Workshop and enroll in Lawyering in the Nation’s Capital (2 units). Enrollment in Advanced Legal Writing (2 units) is highly recommended.
ARNOLD BARBA (Trial Preparation & Settlement – Civil): Trial and litigation attorney Arnold Barba is a partner with LimNexus, LLP, where he concentrates in complex commercial and business litigation, including insurance recovery & enforcement, real estate, complex tort, and unfair competition matters. He specializes in representing utilities in catastrophic tort matters as well as corporate insurance policyholders in connection with insurance enforcement and recovery. In addition, he has substantial experience representing public sector and corporate clients in labor arbitration matters. Mr. Barba is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California, where he has taught an upper division course on civil trial preparation and settlement since 2009. Mr. Barba served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1989 through 1995 and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal in 1994. Mr. Barba is married to his law school sweetheart, Claudia E. Barba, with whom he resides in Camarillo, California along with their three lovely, teenage daughters, two precocious standard poodles, three burrowed hermit crabs, and one ebullient cockatiel.

BELLA CHINCHOY (Immigration Law): Belma Chinchoy is a partner at Immigration General Counsel, a boutique immigration law firm specializing in business immigration. Belma’s practice focuses on representing businesses, investors and entrepreneurs. She guides foreign entrepreneurs in setting up immigration compliant businesses and pursuing EB-5, E-2, EB-1 and L-1 visas and advising US-based businesses on ways in which immigration programs can benefit their operations. Belma also works closely with start-up and small companies and assists them with employment-based petitions. Start-up and small companies require enterprising and nimble counselors who can accompany clients through the company growth phases; Belma thrives working on these cases and devising legal strategies and solutions customized to each business’ specific needs.

Belma began her immigration practice focusing on the humanitarian side of immigration law representing asylum seekers in appellate cases. She continues to represent asylum seekers on a pro-bono basis. Prior to attending law school, Belma worked in the international human rights field as an advocate and fundraiser. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota and also attended Pepperdine University Law School in Malibu, California. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Politics, summa cum laude, from the University of Minnesota.
CURT CUTTING (Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic): Curt Cutting is the co-director of Pepperdine's Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic and a partner at Los Angeles-based appellate boutique Horvitz & Levy LLP, where he handles civil appeals in a wide range of subject areas, in both state and federal courts.

While attending Seattle University School of Law, he served as a legal extern for the Honorable Eugene A. Wright of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. After graduating law school, Mr. Cutting worked for the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, then left that position to serve as a law clerk for the Honorable Ruggero J. Aldisert of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Mr. Cutting joined Horvitz & Levy immediately after his clerkship and has remained with the firm for over twenty years. In 2007, Mr. Cutting received an "Attorney of the Year" award from California Lawyer magazine for his work representing the City of San Diego and obtaining reversal of a large civil judgment that threatened to force the city into bankruptcy. He continues to represent individuals, government entities, and corporations in against high-stakes litigation.

He has particular experience in cases involving punitive damages, and is the primary contributor to the legal blog California Punitive Damages. He has provided commentary on punitive damages litigation for various media outlets, including The National Law Journal, The Seattle Times, The Associated Press, The San Diego Union Tribune, The Daily Journal, The Recorder, BNA's Class Action Litigation Reporter, and Business Insurance. He received his B.S. (Physics) and A.B (History), Ohio University, 1992, cum laude and his J.D, Seattle University School of Law, 1995, magnum cum laude. He is a member of the California and Washington bars.

STEVEN DHILLON (Personal Injury, Practice, and Procedure II): After majoring in history at Pepperdine University, Professor Dhillon continued his education at The University of Iowa College of Law and Tippie College of Business. As a law student, Professor Dhillon made the Jessup International Moot Court Team and was awarded Best Oralist of the 2009 Iowa International Moot Court Competition. After graduating with a JD and MBA in 2010, Professor Dhillon founded The Steven Dhillon Law Firm, APLC, located in Westlake Village, California. Professor Dhillon routinely litigates, to jury verdict, cases against billion-dollar corporations and has recovered millions of dollars in compensation for his injured clients. As a result of his meteoric rise in personal injury practice, Professor Dhillon has been named Top 10 Personal Injury Attorneys in California, Best Personal Injury Attorney in Westlake Village, Ca, Top 1% of Attorneys in California, Top 100 Trial Attorneys in California, and California's Law Firm of the Year.
DENNIS FRANKS *(Entertainment Law Seminar – Special Problems in the Film Industry):* Mr. Franks is Assistant Chief Counsel at a major motion picture studio. For 19 years, he was Senior Vice President, Legal & Business Affairs at Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Los Angeles, which he joined in 2000. Mr. Franks negotiates deals, and provides legal and strategic advice on business and legal compliance issues, including contracts, localization, post production operations, licensing, intellectual property, acquisitions, distribution, sales, marketing, digital delivery, new technologies, competition law, trade associations, and internal investigations. Prior to Fox, Mr. Franks was an associate and then a partner in the litigation department of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, Los Angeles, where his trial and appellate practice emphasized antitrust, business, real estate, and commercial law. Mr. Franks was a judicial extern clerk for Hon. Robert J. Kelleher, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Franks has served on various alumni and community boards, and coaches mock trial teams. Mr. Franks currently is on the board of directors of the Constitutional Rights Foundation. He received his A.B. with honors at Stanford University, 1979, and JD at the University of Southern California, 1983.

ANNA GOODMAN *(Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation Drafting Practicum II):* Anna currently works as an Appellate Fellow at Horvitz & Levy LLP. She graduated *cum laude* and Order of the Barristers from Pepperdine University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree and a certificate in Dispute Resolution. During law school, she served as Literary Citation Editor for the Pepperdine Law Review and Co-Chair of the traveling Interschool Moot Court Team. She was a Faculty Scholar, research assistant to Professor Tanya Cooper, and teaching assistant to Professors Selina Farrell and Mireille Butler. She also worked as a judicial extern to the Honorable Otis D. Wright II of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, as well as an extern for the United States Attorney’s Office. Prior to joining Horvitz & Levy, she practiced in the Labor & Employment litigation group of a national defense firm. She has been involved with anti-trafficking efforts for over 5 years and is passionate about using the law as a tool to protect the vulnerable. She currently serves a member of the Covenant House Young Professional Board and is actively involved with pro bono work through Public Counsel.

SARAH HAMILL *(Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation Drafting Practicum II):* Sarah currently works as an Appellate Fellow at Horvitz & Levy LLP and will begin a federal clerkship on the Central District of California in the fall of 2021. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Pepperdine University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree and certificates in Dispute Resolution and International Comparative Law. During law school, she was a Faculty Scholar, served on the editorial board of the Pepperdine Law Review as a Note and Comment Editor, competed on the Moot Court team and participated in the Community Justice Clinic. She also served as a Douglass Fellow for the Human Trafficking Institute. She is passionate about public interest law and loves working on pro bono adoption cases.
SHANNON KELLY (*Role of In-House Counsel*): is a creative, business-minded lawyer with extensive experience advising and guiding startups and emerging brands in the food and beverage and CPG space. As the lead in-house counsel for multiple hyper-growth companies and internationally expanding brands, she’s held executive leadership roles and contributed to business strategy. She prides herself in helping her business clients find the “sweet spot” of prioritizing growth and innovation, while effectively managing risk. Recently, Shannon started her own practice advising entrepreneurs and early-stage companies in a range of industries from real estate to beauty. Before that, she was the General Counsel for the wildly popular, global ice cream brand, Halo Top, where she led the legal department and managed all legal aspects for the rapidly-growing, global company, until its successful acquisition in 2019. Prior to joining Halo Top, she served as counsel for the Venturing and Emerging Brands division at The Coca-Cola Company, where she was lead counsel on a number of newly-acquired brands including Hansen’s sodas and Hubert's Lemonade. She started her in-house career as counsel for ZICO Beverages LLC, which was acquired by The Coca-Cola Company. Shannon is a proud double alumna of Pepperdine University, having attended Seaver College where she was the Editor in Chief of the student newspaper and the Caruso School of Law, 2013. When she’s not providing expert legal counsel to her clients, she can be found chasing her one-year-old twin boys.

AMBER LEE (*Trial Practice*): Amber Lee received her bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2007 and earned her law degree, as well as a Certificate in Criminal Legal Practice, from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2011. While at Pepperdine, she participated in national trial advocacy competitions, winning a national championship and two regional championships. Upon graduation, Professor Lee earned membership to the Order of the Barristers. In 2012, Ms. Lee joined the Ventura County District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney. Since joining the office, she has successfully handled over two dozen jury trials, involving violent crimes, child abuse, attempted homicides, domestic violence and sexual assault. During her time at the District Attorney's Office, Ms. Lee has also trained police academy cadets and new prosecutors in courtroom demeanor and trial technique. She is currently in the Sexual Assault and Family Protection Unit.

DAVID MARLETT (*Community Property*): David Marlett has a fascination for the human story within the law and the power of story to invoke a more meaningful, empathic legal practice. He has over 20 years of experience representing clients across a range of matters, with most centering on investment firms, general business and personal matters. Professor Marlett has counseled numerous boards of directors, corporations, partnerships, and individuals in the midst of change — from growth pains to the challenges of termination. After obtaining his bachelor's in three majors: accounting, finance, and economics, he earned his CPA license before attending The University of Texas School of Law where he was a founding member of the Texas Environmental Law Journal. Subsequently, he founded the National Crowdfunding
Association, heralding in equity crowdfunding for its egalitarian merits. As such, he worked with the Obama Administration, the Clinton Global Initiative, and was a member of the SEC’s Forum on Small Business Capital, the National Small Business Association’s Economic Development Committee, and Harvard Business School’s New Venture Corporation. Besides being an award-winning storyteller, Professor Marlett is a bestselling author of historical legal thrillers, bringing alive the people and events surrounding some of the most extraordinary yet generally forgotten trials. Last but not least, Professor Marlett has a passion for teaching, having taught a number of university and law school courses including Media Law, Client Relationships, and Community Property.

SARAH M. NISSEL (Faith and Family Law Mediation Clinic): Sarah M. Nissel joined the Jewish Divorce Assistance Center (JDAC) as its founding Director in 2015. Prior to joining JDAC, Ms. Nissel worked in the areas of white-collar criminal defense and complex civil litigation at Bird, Marella, et al., a Los Angeles-based litigation boutique firm. Before joining Bird Marella, Ms. Nissel worked as an Associate at Morvillo, Abramowitz, et al., a boutique litigation firm in New York City. Ms. Nissel has served as a fellow at the Innocence Project, where she gained experience working on criminal proceedings at the state level. Ms. Nissel graduated with honors from Yale University in 2003 where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Comparative Literature. She received her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2008 where she was a Dean’s Scholar.

BRIAN PHILPOTT (Patent Law): Brian J. Philpott is a partner with Ferguson Case Orr Paterson in Westlake Village where he is a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group. His practice focuses on patent prosecution and litigation, trademarks, copyrights, and internet and domain name matters. Mr. Philpott has litigated several intellectual property cases before state and federal courts in California and New York, as well as before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. His technological expertise is in video games, optics and imaging devices, semiconductor technologies, sports equipment, fashion, and e-commerce. As a founder of two tech companies, Mr. Philpott is active in the entrepreneurial community and has extensive experience counseling early-stage companies. His educational background is also technical, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 2001 and a Juris Doctorate from the Pepperdine School of Law in 2005. Outside of the office and the classroom, Mr. Philpott enjoys trivia, athletics, and quantum physics.
ANGELA M. POWELL (Law Enforcement and Civil Rights Claims): Ms Powell is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester, LLP. As a member of the firm's Governmental Entity Liability Team, Ms. Powell represents and counsels governmental entities, public entities and individual police officers in civil rights actions. She has tried more than 60 cases in her 20-year career in both state and federal court and most recently before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals where she convinced the Court to grant her clients qualified immunity in a widely publicized police shooting case. She has established herself as a tenacious attorney with a proven ability to obtain favorable results for her clients. Ms. Powell began her career as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, where she prosecuted hundreds of violent crimes, including robbery, kidnapping and capital murder. After leaving the District Attorney's office, Ms. Powell was a successful plaintiff’s attorney in a boutique Beverly Hills law firm, where she represented employees in sexual harassment and discrimination claims and individuals in civil rights claims. It was during a civil rights’ trial against law enforcement that she realized her true calling was to advocate on behalf of them. Ms. Powell now represents and counsels law enforcement clients in civil rights litigation. She is a strong and effective advocate for her clients both inside and outside the courtroom, often sitting on panels and participating in community forums. Ms. Powell proudly received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Pepperdine University and went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from the University’s School of Law. Ms. Powell is a member of the California State Bar and is also admitted to the Bar of the United States District Court in the Central and Eastern District of California and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

RACHEL ROSSI (Criminal Justice): Rachel Rossi was the first former public defender to run for Los Angeles County District Attorney, and was a federal and county public defender in Los Angeles for almost a decade. Prior to her race, she was Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism & Homeland Security, where she assisted in leading the Democratic Majority’s efforts to develop the next steps in criminal justice reform. Prior to her time on the House side, Ms. Rossi was Counsel to Senator Richard J. Durbin on the Senate side, where she was the lead staffer on the First Step Act, the major federal criminal justice reform bill signed into law in December 2018. Ms. Rossi is a graduate of Pepperdine Caruso School of Law Class of 2009.
CHAIM SAIMAN (Jewish Law): Chaim Saiman is a scholar of Jewish law, insurance law and private law, and has recently published Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law with Princeton University Press. Professor Saiman has served as the Gruss Visiting Professor of Talmudic Law at both Harvard Law School and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, a visiting fellow at Princeton University and a visiting professor at the University of Toronto, Bar-Ilan, Hebrew University and IDC faculties of law. Saiman sits as a rabbinical court judge (dayyan) with the Beth Din of America and serves as an expert witness in insurance law and Jewish law in federal court. Professor Saiman received his B.S. from Georgia State University, and his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law. He also studied for a number of years at Yeshivat Har-Etzion (Gush) and Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh in Israel. Prior to joining the faculty at Villanova, he was an Olin Fellow at Harvard Law School a Golieb Fellow at NYU Law School, a law clerk to Judge Michael McConnell on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and worked as a corporate associate with the firm Cleary Gottlieb in New York. At Villanova, Professor Saiman teaches Contracts, Insurance Law, Insurance Coverage Disputes, Jewish Law, and Legislation.

BRET WELLS (International Tax): is the Law Foundation Professor of Law with the University of Houston Law Center. Professor Wells teaches in the area of federal income taxation, corporate taxation, and international taxation. Mr. Wells is a frequent speaker at conferences on tax matters. Professor Wells was an active witness at hearings that lead up to the recent tax reform in 2017. He has testified (by invitation) on International Tax Reform matters before the Senate Finance Committee as Expert Witness Testimony at the United States Senate Finance Committee Hearing on International Tax Reform (October 3, 2017). He testified (by invitation) on Corporate Tax Reform as an Expert Witness Testimony at the United States Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Integrating the Corporate and Individual Tax Systems: The Dividends Paid Deduction Considered (May 17, 2016). He also testified (by invitation) as an Expert Witness Testimony at the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at the hearing on “Offshore Profit Shifting and the U.S. Tax Code—Part 3 (Caterpillar)” (April 1, 2014). And, he has testified (by invitation) on inbound international taxation issues as Expert Witness Testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures on Tax Reform and Investment in the United States (June 23, 2011).
Professor Wells holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law (cum laude, 1989). Mr. Wells also holds a B.B.A. in Accounting from Southwestern University (summa cum laude, 1987). He is licensed to practice law and is a Certified Public Accountant in the state of Texas.

SAM WU (Startup Law Clinic): Sam Wu received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). After law school, Professor Wu joined the Corporate and Securities Group of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto. In 2010, he co-founded Innovation Capital Law Group specializing in working with technology startups and is currently the lead partner for the Corporate and Securities Group of the firm. He has represented companies in over $5 billion in seed financings, angel investments, venture capital financings, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings. He is an experienced startup attorney representing technology and emerging growth companies involving corporate formation, corporate governance, corporate financings (venture capital and angel financings), mergers and acquisitions, licensing transactions, and initial public offerings. Professor Wu is the founder and author of www.TechStartupLawyer.com, a blog answering the most important questions technology startups should be asking.
EXPERIMENTAL COURSES – SPRING 2021

Constitutional Convention   Professor Ed Larson

The foundational event in America law is the framing and ratifying of the United States Constitution -- the first written national constitution in the world and a model thereafter. This one-credit intensive course examines the events leading up to, at, and after the Constitutional Convention of 1787, concluding with the inauguration of the first president in 1789. Students will closely study the convention and ratification debates, key constitutional compromises, and struggles over the nature of the executive, leading to a deeper understanding of the document's text; the original intent of the framers and ratifiers; and the differences dividing federalists and anti-federalists. In lieu of a final exam, each student will write a 10-page paper about the role played by one key participant in framing or ratifying the Constitution

Criminal Justice   Professor Rachel Rossi

This course examines the historic and current policy trends of criminal justice systems within the United States. It addresses the laws, policies, activism and jurisprudence that have contributed to our Country’s historic rise in incarceration and subsequent efforts to reduce incarceration. The course will cover the contributions of attorneys and the law to criminal justice practice and policy in various phases of the justice system process, including in policing, pretrial detention, prosecutorial policies, federal and California criminal justice legislation, alternatives to incarceration, wrongful convictions, sentencing and mandatory minimums, prison reform, and probation and parole.

Law Enforcement and Civil Rights Claims   Professor Angela Powell

The course will offer a practical approach to litigating 42U.S.C. 1983 as it relates to law enforcement and the current social climate with an emphasis on the 4th Amendment, municipal liability and the applicability of qualified immunity. The course will center around actual cases litigated by the professor. Guest speakers from the plaintiff’s bar and law enforcement.
Litigating Religious Liberties  Professor Eric Rassbach  Intensive course on the ground

This class will take students through the life-cycle of a religious liberty lawsuit, from inception to final resolution. Students will learn, using actual case materials, how religious liberty lawyers design, initiate, and execute their cases. Course materials will include case-initiating documents such as complaints, early motions practice documents such as motions to dismiss and preliminary injunction motions, as well as appellate documents such as petitions for certiorari, opening briefs, and reply briefs. In addition to learning about how to prosecute each stage of religious liberty litigation, students will also learn the substantive law governing the most common kinds of claims brought by religious liberty litigators, including claims under the Free Exercise Clause, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Students will also learn practical aspects of religious liberty litigation such as properly representing a diverse client base, negotiating with government officials, and managing media inquiries. The goal of this intensive course will be for students to gain a basic understanding of the “inner life” of religious liberty cases from the viewpoint of a religious liberty litigator.

Role of In-House Counsel  Professor Shannon Kelly

In today’s business climate, companies rely more and more on their in-house counsel to manage risk and play the role of a valued business partner, who significantly impacts a company’s direction and growth. In-house lawyers have a deep understanding of the businesses they support and are also required to have a firm grasp on many areas of law.

This course is designed to give students a first-hand look into the fun, exciting, and dynamic world of an in-house lawyer, as well as “hands on” experience examining the unique challenges and opportunities they face - from drafting and negotiating commercial transaction agreements, to managing litigation matters.

For students seeking to work in-house, this course will examine many of the day-to-day issues faced by a corporation’s General Counsel and legal department. Students aspiring to work at law firms will learn how to better serve their corporate clients. Simulations, and in-class exercises will help students gain
unique insight on a range of topics, which will include how in-house lawyers communicate and interact with business executives and teams, corporate compliance, employment and HR issues, selecting and managing outside counsel, protecting and promoting the company’s brand, and handling M&A transactions.

Additional Experimental Courses:

Business & Consumer Bankruptcy in Times of Covid  Professor Mark Scarberry
Law & Economics of Contracts Seminar  Professor Robert Anderson
Privacy Law  Professor Gregory McNeal