LAW 520 Courses

LAW520B: LEGAL BASICS FOR ENTREPRENEURS & STARTUPS

This course provides an overview of issues that typically arise in the legal representation of entrepreneurial ventures and early-stage businesses. Areas covered will include the role of the lawyer and types of engagements; choice of entity; governance; capital raising; creditors’ rights and bankruptcy; typical operational contracts; intellectual property issues; risk management; and strategic transactions such as IPOs, mergers, and acquisitions. The objective is to provide students an introduction to various legal issues they are likely to encounter in the representation of entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.

LAW520H: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

This course is the first law school course of its kind in the United States. The market for artificial intelligence systems and uses (collectively, AI) is slated to be in the trillions by 2030. Virtually every person on the planet is exposed to and impacted by AI, or soon will be. Systemic racism and other forms of discrimination are AI-mediated, and informational injuries and other harms result. Despite these facts, there is very little AI regulation in the United States and none at the federal level. In addition, existing laws that should protect people and communities do not do so, in part, because their application to AI-mediated harms is unclear or even impossible.

Today, there is a tremendous amount of public and policy debate about AI and the need for regulation to protect people, apply equal justice and the rule of law to AI, and to encourage innovation and trustworthy markets. State and foreign legislatures are moving forward. Federal legislative and regulatory proposals are being explored and announced. Now is the time to learn about AI technologies and AI systems and uses as subjects for the law. Now is the time to get engaged. This is the Artificial Intelligence Age, and law students who prepare themselves will find opportunities for excellent employment and, more, meaningful opportunities to contribute to the ongoing AI debates and to the creation of new and vital laws.

This course introduces you to and engages you directly in the study of artificial intelligence, legislation and regulation, and social justice learning and work through the foundational lenses of civil rights and consumer protection. With diligence and efforts and fostering their growth mindsets, students will onboard a demonstrable knowledge of AI systems, including machine learning, big data, data curation, and other aspects of such systems. Readings, AI use case research and short writings, group work, class discussions, and other activities among and between Professor Loza de Siles and class members are regular feature of the course. Those activities help students to: (1) learn and practice lifelong strategies for meeting the professional ethical duties, including as to competence and diligence regarding AI and other technologies; (2) elevate and competitively differentiate themselves during law school and throughout their
careers; and (3) make meaningful and impactful contributions toward a greater realization of justice and equal protection for all in today's increasingly algorithmic society.

**LAW520I: PRACTICE OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY**

The competent use of technology is a vital part of modern law practice. Contrary to common belief, routine use of a computer does not lead to the kind of technological competence required in today's legal profession. Students can expect to explore a variety of technology concepts and software with special focus on professional responsibility, artificial intelligence, case and client management, document management and electronic discovery, information literacy, presentation technology, and office technology skills. The course will examine potentially disruptive technological innovations in the legal industry such as genAI, eDiscovery software, document assembly, machine learning, predictive analytics, and online dispute resolution. Guest speakers involved in legal technology will make presentations to the class. Students will be graded on their final project presentation, technology certifications, class blogging, and class participation.

**LAW520J: THE PUBLIC TRUST UNDER THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION**

The Hawaiʻi Constitution provides that all public natural resources, including land, water, and air, are held in trust by the State for the benefit of Hawaiʻi’s people and for future generations. As a trustee, the State and its political subdivisions are required to conserve and protect Hawaiʻi’s natural beauty and public natural resources. This course explores the dynamic case law of Hawaiʻi that has addressed the purposes of the public trust doctrine, the affirmative duties placed upon the State to protect our natural resources, and the procedural safeguards agencies are to employ when making decisions affecting public resources.

Also reviewed in this course is Hawaiʻi’s constitutional provision establishing each person’s right to a clean and healthful environment, which together with the public trust doctrine, forms the bases of a lawsuit filed by youth plaintiffs in Hawaiʻi asserting that the State has insufficiently reduced greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels in its transportation system.

**LAW520K: CYBERSECURITY LAW**

The definition of “hacking a computer” may seem obvious at first glance but vague statutory language has led to situations far removed from the stereotypical hooded hacker in a dark basement. This includes scraping information from public websites, violating terms of use, sharing credentials, and using approved access for personal reasons.

Additionally, as data collection has come to define the 21st century, the significant consequences of a data breach have been made clear. In light of the potential damage a data breach can have, the legal responsibilities of the data holder to protect data and the obligations after a breach have grown.

This course will expose students to the legal authorities that define “hacking” and the cases that define the current legal landscape. Next the course will look at the responsibilities, restrictions, and obligations of data holders. Finally, the course will dive into the more technical elements of cybersecurity by looking at different types of encryption, password breaking, and common tactics used by hackers to break into websites.
**LAW520M: EXTENDED BAR REVIEW I**

This hybrid course is designed to provide a review of substantive law in three areas that are heavily tested on the bar exam—Civil Procedure, Criminal Law & Criminal Procedure, and Real Property—and to develop the skills necessary to apply the substantive law to answer bar exam multiple choice and essay questions. This course will also introduce students to the Multistate Performance Test.

The course is intended to assist students in: (1) Developing a strategy for answering multiple choice questions as tested on the bar exam; (2) Critically reading and writing essays and the multistate performance test; and (3) Reviewing the substantive law that many students have not studied since their first year of law school. To achieve the objective of not only passing this class but also passing the bar exam (your ultimate goal to practice as a lawyer), you must commit yourself to completing the course assignments in a timely and satisfactory manner and participating in class. To measure your success, and your ability to pass the bar exam, you will have assignments each week consisting of Modules that include reading, learning checks, multiple choice questions, essays, and performance tests. This course is asynchronous (except for exams as stated below), so while there is no set date for the class, you must complete the Modules in the week they are assigned.

You will also have a midterm and final exam, each comprised of multiple choice and bar essay questions. The Midterm and Final Exams are delivered live and in person at the Law School.

**LAW520N: THE RISE OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM & HATE GROUPS IN AMERICA**

This course examines the “law” of domestic terrorism in the homeland with an emphasis on case studies including the January 6th US Capital Siege, the Michigan Governor Kidnapping Plot, the Charlottesville Unite the Right Rally, the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting, the El Paso Walmart Shooting, and the Oklahoma City Federal Building Bombing. Students will be exposed to various domestic terrorism groups such as white nationalist extremist movements, eco-terrorists, animal rights, and sovereign citizens. We will analyze ways these groups advance their political, ideological, and social agendas through criminal activity in possible violation of both federal and state laws. The readings and videos will include a variety of diverse and opposing viewpoints. We will also analyze the First and Fourth Amendment constitutionally protected activities in civil protests and address legalities relative to social media platforms as a method to recruit and radicalize individuals. Last, we will address lone-wolf terrorism and whether a stand-alone federal domestic terrorism law should be enacted to counter future domestic terrorist attacks.

**LAW520P: INTRO TO JUVENILE LAW**

This course will introduce you to the impact the legal system has on juveniles and their lives. You will learn about how the criminal justice and child welfare systems intersect and have an instrumental impact on the development and well-being of children, their families, and many different areas of legal practice. The dynamic, interactive, and practical approach to this course will include hearing from multiple guest speakers, including judges, law-enforcement agents, and community-service providers, regarding the complex and multifaceted ways in which our legal system can either set children and their families up for success, or failure. At the end of this course, you will be better equipped as a practitioner in any legal field you choose to pursue, and have multiple new contacts in the legal community, both here in Hawaii, as well as the mainland.
LAW520Q: ISLAND LEADERSHIP LAB

Increasingly, law school graduates find themselves exercising leadership outside law firms and the courtroom. Richardson Law has several generations of graduates who have founded businesses, become non-profit executives, been elected to political office, and exercise leadership in multiple roles across society. Knowing how to lead is a different skill than knowing the black letter law. In this unique seminar, Dean Camille Nelson will co-lead an immersive leadership experience grounded in a curriculum specifically developed to prepare next-generation island leaders for success. The seminar will feature candid conversations and case studies with established leaders in the field. The seminar will include contemporary leadership issues around equity and justice and will feature small group interactions that build leadership skills and share tools that will be used across entire careers. (Limited enrollment)

LAW520T: SPACE LAW

Space law introduces students to the international and domestic public and private law governing the exploration, utility, and commercialization of outer space and celestial bodies. Public international law and/or international environmental law are not required prerequisite courses but are highly recommended to help advance your understanding of the space industry and law. Those students unfamiliar with public international law will be expected to read a recommended bibliography to help you develop a foundational understanding of international law and participate in class. Students should expect to complete several short, formal writing assignments and presentations, along with a final project.

Additional Course Information

LAW 515: CHAPTER 11 BUSINESS REORGANIZATIONS

This course examines the rights and remedies available to a failing business and its creditors when the business seeks to reorganize its business and financial affairs under chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code. The course will cover current industry trends in restructuring relating to health care, real estate, crypto, airlines, and mass torts. We will also touch on substantive "hot topics," including cross-border matters, "toggle" plans, DIP to reorganized equity conversions, and enforceability of charter/operating agreement forfeiture provisions. The course structure tracks the anatomy of a chapter 11 case from pre-filing to confirmation and emergence using pleadings and no textbook! (LAW 554 Secured Transactions and/or LAW 562 Debtors & Creditors are recommended prerequisites, but not required).

LAW584: CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION

Doing well while doing good. This short course will cover evaluating cases, legal traps, fee shifting to winning plaintiffs, qualified immunity, police brutality, free speech and its limits, failure to protect in prisons, and failure to treat prisoners’ medical needs. The course is being taught by an attorney with 43 years of experience including arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court on a First Amendment case.
LWEV527B: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE: ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

This course will survey environmental advocacy efforts among select (local communities and) indigenous peoples around the globe in the context of increasing recognition about their key role in biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions. Based in part based upon student-generated areas of particular interest, subjects of exploration anticipated include implementation efforts relating to a resolution adopted in 2021 by the International Council for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which renounces the Doctrine of Discovery—and likely will be the subject of additional proposed motions at the upcoming (hybrid) 2025 World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

LWPA582B: REPARATIONS THEORY & PRACTICE

Healing the persisting wounds of historic injustice is matter of considerable importance in the United States and across the world. It is also significant for Hawai‘i. Yet, Reparation initiatives (or reparative justice efforts) are controversial, engendering at times both passionate support and vehement opposition. And this has ramifications for people (through generations), communities and society. The field of Reparations is immense and complex. Practically and theoretically. This course will address some (but by no means all) of the practical and conceptual facets of modern Reparations theory and practice. It will deal with concrete examples (including Japanese American redress and Black Reparations but ranging far more broadly) as well as with an analytical framework for social healing through justice.