

Fall 2023

LAW520 Course Descriptions & Additional Course Information

(updated 8/01/2023)

LAW 520 Courses

LAW520B: SELECTED TOPICS IN BUSINESS LAW

This course familiarizes students with the foundational business concepts and associated legal issues that all lawyers need to understand, including: (1) The basics of business strategy, funding, and operations; (2) The financial and regulatory landscape in which businesses operate; (3) Business valuations and performance metrics; (4) Risk management; and (5) Issues of internal management and corporate governance. The overall aim of the course is to help law students better appreciate the broader business context of legal decision-making. These topics are valuable for any lawyer that will interact with businesses in their course of practice, whether during corporate representation, civil litigation, non-profit management, government oversight, divorce asset divisions, or criminal fraud prosecution and defense.

The course is a combination of in-class case studies, lectures from business leaders and attorneys, and topic specific instruction. Students may choose to take the class for two or three credits.

LAW520H: 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 briefly dive into the more technical elements of cybersecurity by looking at different types of encryption and common tactics used by hackers to break into computers.

LAW520K: STAGECRAFT FOR LAWYERS

The objective of this course is to train and empower students to be active listeners (who don't simply wait for their turn to speak), effective communicators (who embody their physical and vocal presence), and inclusive team players (who can collaborate across backgrounds and hierarchies) as they embark on a career in the law.

The course will bridge the gap between academic preparation and its successful application in practice. It will combine workshops from the theatre — tailored specifically to address challenges that young lawyers face — with seminar-style discussions to help align the intellectual rigor of legal education with the communication skills necessary to succeed as a practicing attorney. The curriculum will span five aspects of communication: "Listen"; "Process"; "Include"; "(Story)Tell"; and "Collaborate." Every few lessons, we will invite a prominent lawyer to participate in our class and share personal learnings from their careers.

The assignments for this course will include journal entries, readings, and preparation for workshops, including developing a theme and telling the story of two assigned cases (one criminal and one IP).

LAW520M: 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.

LAW520N: 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 and 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

LAW 520O: 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.

LAW 520P: ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING FOR LAW PRACTICE

This course is designed to help students refine the type of writing used by law practitioners in the United States, focusing on the techniques of legal research, objective analysis, and predictive writing. Students will hone these skills through realistic legal writing scenarios designed to incorporate methods that U.S. lawyers use to analyze typical legal problems in a law office setting. Students will receive extensive feedback and revision opportunities to help them grow as legal writers. Variable credits: 2 credits for Credit/No Credit only; 3 credits for a letter grade only. Prerequisites: Lawyering Fundamentals I & II and Legal Research. (Limited enrollment)

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)

LAW 520R: INTRODUCTION 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.

[Additional Course Information for Other Courses](#)

LAW549: ADMIRALTY LAW

The Admiralty Law course offered this year will be an introduction and overview of important concepts in maritime and admiralty law. Admiralty is a unique set of laws with its own sections in both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the federal local rules. Many of the concepts in admiralty have been developed over the course of multiple centuries, and understanding this history helps give insight into their modern application. This course will look at the often-murky divide of what issues actually fall under the federal admiralty jurisdiction in the United States. Other topics will include maritime contracts, torts, sales, moorage, seaworthiness, liens, insurance, general average, limitation of liability, death on the high seas, and the Jones Act. A special emphasis will be placed on environmental issues including vessel groundings, oil spills, sinking, invasive species, and reef damage from anchors with the possibility of this course being applied toward the requirements of the Environmental Law Certificate.

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.