

Family Law with Skills, Fall 2013
Profs. Shepard & DiFonzo
Course Coordinator: Chris DelCioppio

Welcome to FLWS for Fall 2013. This course is a four-credit course integrating a variety of essential lawyering skills into the fundamentals of family law. In managing this far-ranging course, Profs. Shepard and DiFonzo have called upon the talents of our Course Coordinator, Chris DelCioppio, as well as a dedicated group of volunteer lawyers and judges who will guide the small groups.

Due to the integration of skills into every aspect of the course, our class meeting schedule is unusual. The syllabus has been posted on TWEN and you must review it carefully. **Every session marked “Skills” is mandatory.** Our normal schedule is Tu/Th 2:10-4:00, Fri 12:10-2:00, but there are many variations listed. Note that there are several Fridays when we do not meet, and we end the course earlier in the semester than you might have expected.

The first week is particularly unusual in that we will be meeting four times, including a Wednesday evening. As noted in the Syllabus, we will meet Tue. Aug. 20 (2:10-4:00 in Rm. 242); Wed. Aug. 21 (6:10-8:00 pm in the faculty lounge—a skills session); Thur. Aug. 22 (2:10-4:00 in Rm. 242); and Fri. Aug. 23 (12:10-2:00 in Rm. 242—a skills session).

Please register for the TWEN site for this course and review the Syllabus and other documents posted on the “Syllabus” page.

For the first class, please read the following—these will serve as good introductions to the course and the field:

- Chapter 1 of the casebook, Oliphant & VerSteegh, *Work of the Family Lawyer* (3rd ed. 2012)—be sure you have the Third Edition
- U.S. v Windsor [excerpt posted on TWEN]
- Coplan, *When a Woman Loves a Woman* [short article posted on TWEN]

The following is recommended, especially for those without a background in family law:

- J. Herbie DiFonzo & Ruth C. Stern, *The Winding Road from Form to Function: A Brief History of Contemporary Marriage*, 21 J. Am. Acad. Matrim. Law. 1 (2008)—available on WestlawNext as 21 JAMAML 1

We look forward to an exciting and busy semester.
Profs. DiFonzo & Shepard