SYLLABUS and INITIAL READING ASSIGNMENTS

BANKRUPTCY – LAW 3794

Instructor:

Eric G. Waxman III
ewaxman@westermanllp.com
Office: 516-992-1845
Cell: 631-278-2210

Purpose of the Course: This course provides an introduction to business and consumer bankruptcy law, primarily focused on the United States Bankruptcy Code, Chapters 7 (liquidation), 11 (reorganization), and 13 (individuals debt adjustment). The course will also address creditors' remedies under state law, liens, and security interests under UCC Article 9.

By the end of the course, students should have a grasp of bankruptcy law, policy, and practice and fundamental legal concepts relating to debtor-creditor relationships, together with an ability to apply the knowledge to advise businesses and individuals and their creditors and other interested parties.

Course Materials: During the semester, we will be using the following course materials:

- D. Bussel, D. Skeel, *Bankruptcy* (10th ed. 2015; Foundation Press/West Academic).
- Resnick, H. Sommer, *2015 Collier Portable Pamphlet* (Lexis Nexis).
- Student Questionnaire (optional)
- Handouts

Classes:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. plus rescheduled classes.
- Room: Kushner Hall 0242.

Preparation and Participation:

Please read the assigned material, including any cited or assigned provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and Rules and **handouts**, and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Please bring the Code and Rules to class once the lectures

reach bankruptcy law topics. I reserve the right (but not the obligation) to adjust a student's grade based on meaningful class participation. Handouts will be available through TWEN. For the first several classes, I will have copies of handouts available in class.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to prepare for classes conscientiously. If you miss class frequently or are unprepared several times, your grade may be lowered. Alternatively, I may ask the Registrar to withdraw you from the course. Sometimes you can't avoid missing a class. If you know in advance that you will be missing a class for a compelling reason, or if you have missed a class due to illness or emergency, please send me an e-mail, briefly explaining the situation.

Sign-in sheets will be provided for each regularly-scheduled class, which shall be the dispositive evidence regarding your absence from a given class. Each student is responsible for signing in. Falsification of sign-in sheets is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct.

Lateness: Students are expected to be on time to class. However, it is better to come to class late than not at all. You may walk in late if you have a good reason, as long as you don't abuse this privilege.

"TWEN" (The West Education Network): I will set up a course page for this class on TWEN. TWEN gives me a quick way to reach all of you with any announcements, Syllabus changes, **handout materials**, interesting links, etc. It also gives me a way to extend class discussion beyond the classroom hours. *You must register for this course on TWEN.*

Grading: The final grade for the course will be based on a final examination, which may consist of short essay and short answer (multiple choice) questions. I will provide more information about the final exam in class later in the semester.

Computer Policy: Computers are to be used during class for taking notes and no other purpose. They are not to be used to "surf the net" or send email or instant messages. Violations of this rule may lead to you being prohibited from using a laptop during class.

Communications: The best way to communicate with me is by email. While I do not maintain regular office hours, if you need to speak with me in person, we can set up an appointment either before or after class.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE as of August 19, 2015

Casebook (CB) assignments are in Bussel and Skeel's *Bankruptcy* (10th ed. 2015). Read the Bankruptcy Code sections discussed in the reading materials. Read the handouts and bring or have access to them for class.

Week	Topic	Assignment
1	Judgments, Liens, Security Interests; State Law Enforcement Rights; Exemptions Overview of Bankruptcy: The Bankruptcy Estate	CB: pages 1-28 CB: pages 29-55 Handouts: Exemptions, security interests, fraudulent transfers
2	Prebankruptcy Planning Claims; Future Demands/Mass Torts Equitable Rights	CB: pages 55-95
3	Secured Claims, Priority Claims, Administrative Expenses	CB: pages 97-116
4	Discharge and Exceptions to Discharge Stays and Injunctions	CB: pages 117-160 CB: pages 161-184
5	Stays and Injunctions continued Executory Contracts	CB: pages 184-212 CB: pages 213-245
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