FIRST YEAR COURSES

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION A - BARRON

What is a crime? Why are certain acts considered criminal? What is the criminal mind? Those are some of the questions we will seek answers to during our semester long inquiry into criminal law that begins on Monday, 24 August. For your first set of readings, please read pp. 149 - 179 (Legality) in the casebook. The casebook is Kadish, et al CRIMINAL LAW AND ITS PROCESSES - 9th edition. Your next set of readings will be pp. 82-96, 111-117, and 120 - 130 (Justification for Punishment). You will be called upon to not only discuss the facts of the cases, but to discuss the rules courts rely on, develop, and/or dismiss in coming to their decisions. You also will be called upon to apply those rules and facts in order to resolve hypothetical problems posed to you. Why? You have to start thinking like a lawyer and how facts and rules relate in order to begin to develop the necessary tools to competently represent clients. That is why it is important that you just not do the reading, but that you think about what you read.

I will be distributing a course syllabus during our first class as well. Please note that I allow laptops for note taking during class. However, if I discover that you are using your laptop(s) for things other than in class note taking, I will have no other recourse than to ban laptops from class.

NOTE: All phones must be stored away during class. They may not remain on the desk, on your lap, or anywhere else.