Course: Law & Psychiatry - Spring 2016

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Grading:
20% Attendance/Class Participation
35% Paper #1 – DUE March 3, 2016 (Topic Due: February 4, 2016)
45% Paper #2 - DUE April 14, 2016 (Topic Due: March 24, 2016)

Paper topics should be emailed to cwolf@abramslaw.com by the deadlines referenced above. I am available by appointment to discuss topics or exchange suggested topics or ideas. Each paper should be 10 pages in length (double-spaced) plus endnotes. Do not use footnotes. All citations must be properly cited in accordance with Bluebook rules. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the paper.

Attendance: This is a two credit class that meets one day a week on Thursdays. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than four hours of class this semester, your file will be forwarded to the Office of Student Affairs and this may result in either a lower grade or loss of credit, per the law school policy. Accommodations may be made for students who must be absent for religious reasons, serious illness, and in cases of truly compelling hardship.

Readings: Students are expected to have read all assigned readings and be prepared for participation in class. The required readings for this class will primarily consist of cases, articles, and selected statutes. Cases and statutes can be downloaded from Westlaw or LexisNexis. All articles and other handouts will be uploaded to TWEN. Please make sure that you have registered for the TWEN website for this course.

I look forward to a productive and informative semester.
Paper Rubric

Topic: (10%)
  - Excels in responding to assignment.
  - Interesting, demonstrates sophistication of thought.
  - Central idea/thesis is clearly communicated; limited enough to be manageable.
  - Understands and critically evaluates sources, appropriately defines terms.

Legal Analysis/ Use of Authority: (20%)
  - Understanding of essential issues presented.
  - Discussion of viable alternative arguments.
  - Understanding and analysis of authority.
  - Effective use of authority to support arguments.
  - Ability to distinguish adverse cases/arguments.

Organization and Coherence: (30%)
  - Uses a logical structure appropriate to paper's subject, purpose, audience, and thesis.
  - Use of topic sentences.
  - Use of transitional sentences.
  - Paragraphs effectively organized and well ordered to communicate logical progression.
  - When appropriate uses effective point headings throughout.

Advocacy and Writing Style: (30%)
  - Clear, concise, unambiguous writing style.
  - Grammatically correct.
  - Forceful and persuasive presentation (e.g. active voice).
  - Understanding of strengths and weaknesses of position.
  - Integration of facts into legal argument.

Typos, Citations and Administrative Compliance: (10%)
  - Lack of typos throughout.
  - Provides authority where needed.
  - Uses proper Bluebook citation form.
  - Use of endnotes.
  - Follows requested page limits (10 pages double spaced).
  - Turned in on time.

COMMENTS:
1. **Introduction to Law and Psychiatry Course**

   **Required Reading:**

2. **Introduction to New York State Mental Hygiene Law**

   - Overview of Pertinent Mental Hygiene Law and related Public Health Law Sections
   - Mental Hygiene Law Article 9
   - Mental Hygiene Law: Legal Status – Inpatient Hospital Setting

   **Required Reading:**
   - NY Mental Hygiene Law § 47.01, 47.03.
   - NAMI, *What is Mental Illness: Mental Illness Facts*.

3. **Categories of Mental Health Professionals**

   **Required Reading:**
   - NAMI, *Types of Mental Health Professionals*.
4. Role of Counsel in Mental Hygiene Law Court Proceedings

- In-house and Outside Counsel; Mental Hygiene Legal Service; Attorney General’s Office

   **Required Reading:**
   - *M HLS Mission Statement*, Appellate Division, 2nd Department,
   - *How Does MHLS Serve the Mentally Disabled?*

5. Psychiatric Diagnoses, Dual Diagnosis, DSM-V

   **Required Reading:**
   - Excerpts from the DSM-V.
   - NAMI, *Dual Diagnosis*.