

Legal Analysis, Writing and Research II
Professor Joffe
Spring 2018

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS

The main texts for the class will be (1) *Introduction to Advocacy: Research, Writing and Argument*, Eighth Edition (Foundation Press), and (2) Neumann, *Legal Reasoning and Legal Writing*, Eighth Edition. In addition, we will continue to refer to *The Bluebook* and Sloan, *Basic Legal Research Tools and Strategies*. Since we used *The Bluebook* and the Sloan and Neumann texts in LAWR I, the only book you will have to purchase now is *Introduction to Advocacy* (a short paperback text).

Before our first class, please pick up your trial brief from your folder in room 216. During our first class, we will discuss some common strengths and weaknesses of your first persuasive brief.

For the first few classes, we will focus on the Multistate Performance Test (“MPT”), a particular format that it is tested on the Bar Exam. All first year students will be taking a simulated MPT on Friday, January 26. It will be similar to the closed-universe memo that you did last fall, in that you will be given the fact pattern and the relevant legal authority and be asked to analyze it in a timed writing. I will be providing samples of MPTs to practice with.

Finally, you are required to attend the Lexis and Westlaw advanced research classes, to enhance your computer research skills. These sessions are specifically geared to appellate research, which is what you will be doing this semester. Students must sign up for each training session through the LEXIS and WESTLAW websites directly. **THESE CLASSES ARE MANDATORY AND ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN.** Failure to attend these classes will impact on the professionalism part of your grade.

Please sign up for training online by clicking the links I have provided below:

WESTLAW: Log in and click the “Legal Research Training” link. Click the “In Person & Webinar” link. Click “Enroll” next to the session you would like to attend. If you have any questions, please email our Westlaw Rep., Stefanie Efrati, at stefamie.efrati@thomsonreuters.com.

LEXIS: Log in and click on “MY SCHOOL” near the top of the page. Click on the name of the training that you would like to attend. Click on the blue “Register for the event” button to enroll. If you have any questions, please email our LEXIS Rep., Ann Stafilias at Antoinette.stafilias@lesisnexis.com

Enjoy the rest of your winter break!
All good wishes for a healthy, happy and successful new year.