

**LAWR I – FALL 2020 - PROF. COLESANTI - 8/11/2020**

**HANDOUT #1**

**I. RESEARCH INSTRUCTION**

Each student must complete introductory electronic research instruction by viewing separate demonstrations offered by Lexis and Westlaw. These demos are linked below:

1. LEXIS Representative: Ann Stafilias

<https://www.lexisnexisnow.com/view/new/mail?iID=XTrmZ9SNHNr4wRHW8DFP>

2. Westlaw Representative: Estee Waxman

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/youVZAfbi6kpJb7PrtHDccYIuF4G-aaa8gSNrKZexUuFflUCFjNU8vrFd8KfISe9> [Access Password: Z1A#5jWq]

These demos must be viewed by September 1, 2020. Note that the demo may request that you confirm your viewing with the respective law school representative.

**II. A BAKER’S DOZEN OF INITIAL CLASS CONVENTIONS**

There are few universal style truths. However, “conventions” shall be mercilessly enforced by your supervisor throughout your career. Here are the class conventions (for now).

1. Use only 12-point, Times New Roman font.
2. Include 2 spaces after each period (i.e., include two spaces before the start of each sentence).
3. Use numerals for the numbers 11 through infinity, but do not start a sentence with a numeral.
4. Include 1-inch margins all around the document and double-space all text.
5. Avoid questions in the text.
6. Indent the start of all paragraphs, the size of the indent is your choice, but remain consistent.
7. No contractions (outside of direct quotes) are permitted.
8. Avoid slang (example: Write “deceased” rather than “kicked off”) and exclamation points.
9. Avoid capitalization, italics, underlines, or bold for emphasis. These 4 tools are relied upon for legal citation. Make your prose draw attention to itself.
10. Each page should have at least 2 paragraphs.
11. No sentence fragments or run-on sentences are allowed.
12. Place sentence punctuation outside of a direct quote.

EXAMPLE: The store clerk mocked my “’60s haircut”.

13. Page numbers begin on the second page of a document and are always at the bottom center.

### III. A YOUNG LAWYER'S FREQUENT WORD MISHAPS

The quickest way to lose the reader's confidence is a misspelling or an improper usage of a word. The laptop can help with the former; here is a list to help with the latter.

1. Irregardless
  2. With regards to
  3. Disorientated
  4. Uninterested/Disinterested
  5. Verbal/Oral
  6. Can not
  7. Nauseous/Nauseated
  8. Mischievious
  9. Trail court
  10. Readable
  11. Unexplainable
  12. Forego/Forgo
  13. Entitled/Titled
  14. Farther/Further
  15. Floundering/Foundering
- 

### IV. NEW LEGAL VOCABULARY (see also pp. 212-213 in Text)

1. Rule
  2. Synthesis
  3. Dismissal
  4. Summary judgment
  5. Mens rea
  6. Caption
  7. Headnote
  8. Misstate (vs. lie)
  9. Shepardize (and also Keycite)
  10. Redact
- 

### V. IN-CLASS EXERCISE: "Better Shoppin' at the Hoppin'"

#### Background

The text (pp. 48) introduces the notion of statutory construction. The main "bullets" of that lesson appear below--

1. Read the entire statute.
2. Focus on intrinsic explanations.
3. Focus on extrinsic explanations.
4. Read the entire statute again.

Let us take that list further: An ideal statute should follow customary legislative goals that emphasize independence, comprehensiveness, and general applicability.

### Instructions

I recently did my grocery shopping at Hoppin' Shop. I was appalled. The store was swarming with people without masks or direction. Shoppers yelled at colleagues traveling "on the British side" of the aisle. Items were seemingly handled at will, and then replaced on the shelves. A seven-foot tall robot warned of spills; rambunctious youths had drawn a sad face under the words "Patriots lost Brady!" on its top panel. Packages were opened and food removed/eaten prior to purchase. The express lane limitation was completely ignored. Three teenagers were filming a Tik-Tok video in front of the lobster tank.

I complained to the employee at the customer service desk. He sympathized but said he was understaffed. Noting my "Hofstra Law" sweatshirt, he politely invited me to draft a code of conduct for shoppers. I invite you to assist me with this community service.

### TO DO—

Create a store behavior "statute" to be posted near each entrance. Note that the only legal requirement (i.e., obligation from New York State) is that a mask be worn; you shall have to be creative to expand upon that simple dictate. Avoid citations, for now.

### WHAT TO INCLUDE—

- A 2-sentence "Preamble" (hint: Explain the need for the statute.)
- A Rule (hint: Create a multi-part test.)
- Three Definitions (hint: Explain key terms subject to varying interpretations.)
- Two Exceptions (hint: There are always exceptions.)
- Two Defenses (hint: Controversial obligations are normally accompanied by exemptions, to soften the blow.)
- The Effective Date (hint: Many a young lawyer has been embarrassed by failing to note that an onerous requirement had not yet taken effect.)

Aim for a total passage not exceeding 12 sentences.

-----