

Entertainment Law Syllabus

Professor Meggett
Fall 2023
Tuesdays, 6:10pm – 8:00pm
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Entertainment Law surveys various legal issues behind the transactions in the entertainment industry and aims to give students a practical overview of practicing law in an entertainment space. Topics of the class include current and foundational transactions that continue to shape and form music, film, television, and digital media norms.

The course will breakdown entertainment agreements and explore practical approaches to client counseling related to representing an artist, performer, talent, celebrity and/or entertainment or media company. Students will also be taught to identify litigation issues and theoretical questions raised by law and the rules of ethics.

The purpose of this class is to expose students to various types of opportunities in the entertainment legal field, present real scenarios of the types of cases entertainment lawyers would deal with, provide practical experience through assignments that would reflect tasks performed in the real world.

** Students are expected to know how to redline a document to take this class.

CLASSWORK: Students will be expected to be prepared for class and capable of answering questions related to the reading and assignments.

Guest Speakers: There will be guest speakers throughout the semester that have experience in the entertainment space who will join our sessions to share their experiences and advice, expose you to different roles and opportunities in the entertainment law industry, and provide more detailed expertise about specific areas.

Once the speaker is announced, you are expected to email me a question that you will also be prepared to ask them in class. I would suggest researching the speakers if needed, checking their LinkedIn page and any other online mentions. This is also an opportunity to expand your network in this field.

HOMEWORK: Homework assignments will be announced in class and/or posted on blackboard within 24 hours after class. Check blackboard frequently. **There will be required assignments in this class**, only three will be graded towards your final grade and the others will be graded as complete or incomplete (which will be factored into your participation grade).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES. Below is language from the Law School's list of approved Learning Outcomes that are relevant to this course:

1. **Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context.**

Performance Indicators and Examples:

- *Writing* – Writing analytically and persuasively and drafting legal documents such as contracts, statutes, client communications, opinion letters and the like.
- *Basic legal analysis, fact development and law-finding* – Extracting rules and policy from cases, statutes, and administrative regulations and analyzing, interpreting and arguing differing interpretations of rules and statutes; conducting investigation of facts and constructing a coherent narrative based on that investigation; identifying legal issues in facts and applying rules and policy to facts; weighing evidence to reach factual inferences; constructing arguments and identifying flaws in an argument; performing comprehensive legal research; analyzing and structuring transactions; presenting analysis orally and arguing orally; using policy to analyze and persuade.

2. **Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system.**

Performance Indicators and Examples:

- *Professional identity and perspectives* – A student shall learn how to: present written and oral communications and conduct him or herself in professional settings in a manner that meets the standards of the legal profession; conduct him or herself in accordance with standards of professional conduct; fulfill a lawyer's commitment to competence, integrity, accountability, and social responsibility; and apply the principles and policies reflected in the law governing lawyers, including a lawyer's duty of loyalty to clients, fiduciary duties, and obligation of zealous representation.

3. **Entry-level lawyering capabilities needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.**

Performance Indicators and Examples:

- At the level of proficiency required for effectiveness as an entry-level lawyer, and in a manner appropriate to a student's professional goals, examples of such capabilities include: strategic planning and developing a plan to accomplish a goal; problem solving in light of a client's objectives, anticipating consequences and assessing risks; recognizing the most common ethical and professional liability dilemmas and resolving them with high professional standards; negotiating in both dispute and transactional contexts; counseling clients; interviewing; performing basic trial tasks (including using the rules of evidence); using procedural tools such as motions and discovery; utilizing experts and expert knowledge; working collaboratively; learning from experience through self-critique; managing projects within time and resource limitations; presenting orally outside of litigation; and using technology in legal practice.

EXPECTED STUDENT WORKLOAD:

The American Bar Association requires that you *spend at least four hours per week outside of class studying for this 2-credit course*. This is the average amount of time required for out of class work per week over the course of the semester. The time you will spend throughout the semester

completing the homework for class will likely satisfy the majority or all of that time commitment. This is in addition to the two hours of class time.

GRADING:

Students will be graded on class participation, completed assignments/homework, and the final exam. The exam will consist of fact patterns based on relevant cases and topics/issues discussed throughout the course of the class.

Class Participation, Guest Speaker Questions, Homework, Professionalism and Attendance: 25%
Three Graded Assignments: 25% each

Attendance: This is an online course. Class attendance is *required*. Cameras must be turned on. Please remain muted unless you are speaking. Students will be expected to read and be prepared to discuss the weekly course material. See below for assignments. Class participation will reflect favorably on your final grade. If you are unable to make a specific class, please e-mail me indicating when you will be absent and why.

There will be a 15-minute break in this class.

Reading:

Required:

- **Textbook:** Mass Media and the Law, Clay Calvert, Dan Kozlowski and Derigan Silver McGraw Hill Publishing (“MML”)
- Handouts, Blackboard/TWEN posts and website links, etc.

Suggested:

- Law360
- Hollywood Reporter Esq.
- Variety
- Cynopsis
- Billboard Biz

COMMUNICATIONS: I will remain on our zoom call for a time period after class for any questions. If you would like to meet with me outside of office hours, you may arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet by sending me an email. My email is Janine.A.Morris-Meggett@hofstra.edu .

The best way to communicate with me is by email. If I need to communicate with you, I will do so by email or via Blackboard. You should check your email regularly for messages from me and be certain to let me know if your email address changes. You should frequently check the email address that you provided for communications from me. You will be responsible for whatever information I convey to you through all or any of these methods of communication, as well as

assignments I make orally in class. Even an excused absence from class does not justify being uninformed unless we discuss it prior.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THIS IS A TENTATIVE AGENDA BELOW. TOPICS MAY CHANGE DUE TO GUEST SPEAKER CANCELLATIONS AND THE FLOW OF THE CLASS.

1. **August 22nd**: Introduction to Entertainment Law and Contracts
2. **August 29th**: Overview of Contracts, The Basics
3. **September 12th**: Intellectual Property (Trademark & Copyright)
4. **September 19th**: Intellectual Property (Trademark and USPTO)
5. **September 26th**: Common Deals w/ a focus on Management Deals
6. **October 3rd** :In Class Assignment
7. **October 10th** : Sports Law/ Name, Image, and Likeness
8. **October 17th**: Music Publishing
9. **October 24th** : Negotiations and Closing Deals
10. **October 31st**: Content Review/ Pre-Broadcast Review
11. **November 7th** :Mock Negotiation
12. **November 14th**: Breach of Contract and other Litigation issues in entertainment
13. **November 21st**: Artificial Intelligence, Literary Deals, Digital Media, etc.
14. **November 28th** :Recap