ENTERTAINMENT LAW (BLAW 451 – 3 units)
Professor Carr
Fall 2013

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:45am-12:15pm; Friday 11:45am – 12:45pm, and by appointment.

Moodle: It is your responsibility to check Moodle regularly for announcements and other information related to the course.

Mission, Learning Goals and Objectives:

The mission of the Department of Business Law is to enable students, through excellence in teaching, to recognize and analyze legal issues arising in the business environment.

Classes are taught using the Socratic method, with its goal of participatory learning and the development of reasoning skills. This active learning process requires students to articulate, develop and defend positions, to think critically and to engage in problem-solving. Students learn to formulate an effective legal analysis by synthesizing information, identifying legal issues, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant facts, using facts and law to support argument, reasoning by analogy and reaching conclusions based on analysis. In addition, students in all courses study ethical issues in a business context, with actual topics depending on course content.

Entertainment Law (BLAW 451) is designed to provide students with an understanding of the recurring legal problems that arise in the business context of the entertainment industry and the legal relationships between the parties involved in the film, television, theater, music, and online entertainment fields. In particular, the course will address tort law issues, including defamation, invasion of privacy, and the right of publicity; intellectual property protection, including copyright and trademark law and the protection of ideas; contract law issues, including contract formation, contractual obligations, and remedies; and regulation of entertainment content and industry practices.

You will analyze how law applies to factual settings. You will read court decisions, prepare written briefs of the decisions, orally defend your interpretations of the cases and answer hypothetical questions in open class discussion. You will learn to distinguish the application of rules depending on changing circumstances in various cases and
hypotheticals. You will learn to argue alternate sides of a dispute regardless of personal belief. You will learn to identify the functions, policies, and trends in the law, and to consider social, economic and ethical influences on the law.

Exams are composed of one or more essay questions which require you to analyze factual situations, identify legal issues and apply the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases. Exams will include multiple-choice questions.

Class Preparation

The assignments are listed below. Normally we complete one assignment each class, however, always be one full assignment ahead. If we begin but do not finish an assignment, prepare the next full assignment for the next class. Assignments include reading from the text and written preparation, some of which will be turned in. If you have questions about the assigned material, please ask. You may not tape record the class.

It is your responsibility to be prepared for every class. If you are absent, it is still your responsibility to be prepared for class. Exchange contact information with another student in the class to find out any missed information from an absence. You should contact that fellow student, rather than the professor, unless you have a particular question or problem. Once during the term, you may turn in a note at the start of class stating that you are unprepared for class discussion and no negative mark will be made. You must be present in class to give such a note. It is not available as an excuse for an absence or a brief that is to be turned in.

You are expected to show respect for your classmates, your professor, and the university, and not to engage in disruptive behavior. If you walk in late, please do so quietly and take a seat in the back of the room. Food is not permitted in the classroom nor is sleeping during class or raising your voice to fellow students or the professor. You may be asked to leave class for disruptive behavior and you may be required to speak with the Student Conduct Coordinator before returning to class.

Briefs: As you read the text, it is strongly recommended that you outline the chapter, take notes as you go, and/or make flashcards. You are responsible for making a study guide. It will not be provided for you. In addition, there are cases and problem cases which must be briefed in writing. A "case" is a court case which is contained in the text. A "problem case" ("PC") is an end-of-chapter case, which, again, must be briefed. These PCs are also actual court cases, but do not include the court's decisions - that will be your job to analyze. When a PC contains questions, simply ignore them, and instead brief it as a case.

You will be called on at random throughout the semester to read your briefs in class. You will not be graded on the briefs because these are learning tools, not finished product. However, if you are unprepared or absent, this will affect your grade.
Some of these briefs, as noted on the assignment list, must be turned in, using turnitin.com, through Moodle, prior to the beginning of class, for credit/no credit. Hard copies and emails of the briefs will not be accepted for any reason, so don’t wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment only to be frustrated by a technical difficulty. These turned in briefs are credit/no credit, but please be aware that simply turning in something is not sufficient to receive credit. You must have made a good faith effort to complete all elements of the assignment. You may not copy from any source, including the textbook. Your work must be your own, and turnitin will report on the amount of your brief that is copied. Failure to adequately complete the assignment will affect your grade as discussed below under “Exams and Grading”.

**Briefing Cases**

To brief cases, use the following "IRAC" format:

* **Issue**: The issue is a question that must be answered in order to reach a conclusion in the case. Make it specific (e.g. "Is defendant liable for false imprisonment if plaintiff was asleep at the time of 'confinement'?") rather than general (e.g. "Will the plaintiff be successful?") It is best to use the parties’ names in the specific case being briefed (e.g. "Did Miller owe a duty of care to Osco, Inc. and therefore is liable for negligence?") Most cases present one issue, however, if there is more than one issue, list all, and analyze all issues raised.

* **Rule**: The rule is the law which applies to the issue. It should be stated as a general principal, (e.g. “A duty of care is owed whenever the defendant should anticipate that her conduct could create a risk of harm to the plaintiff") not a conclusion to the particular case being briefed, (e.g. "The plaintiff was negligent.") Rules must be in the form of sentences, not questions. Present the rules as a list, not a paragraph.

* **Application**: The application is a discussion of how the rule applies to the facts of a particular case. The application must be at least two paragraphs, one for each of plaintiff’s and defendant’s arguments. It should be written debate - not simply a statement of the conclusion. Present both sides of any issue. The application shows how you are able to reason on paper and is the most difficult (and, on exams, the most important) skill you will learn. It is called an application because you are applying the facts to the rules, so be sure to use all of the facts presented to make your arguments.

* **Conclusion**: What was the result of the case? When briefing a case, make sure you give the result reached by the court, rather than your opinion of what should have happened. When briefing a problem case or writing an exam essay, be sure to draw a reasoned conclusion based on the rules and application you presented. The conclusion should not be more than a couple of sentences and should answer your issue.

Most briefs that you prepare for class will be about one typewritten page. If you choose to handwrite them, they will be longer. Each brief must be brought to class on the day it is
scheduled to be discussed, and thereafter in the event that we are behind, and you
should take notes on them as we discuss them. Then, after it has been discussed in
class, you no longer need to bring it with you, but you should keep it to study for the
exam.

Exams and Grading

Your grade will be based upon participation, one midterm, and a cumulative final.
Plus/minus grading is used. The grade allocation is as follows:

Participation (attendance, class discussions, assignments): 30 points
Midterm: 85 points
Final exam: 85 points

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at every class meeting. There are no excused
absences, but you will have the opportunity to make up a lost attendance point by
volunteering to present a case in class. Your grade is affected by whether you have been
late, left class early, prepared when called on and whether you have turned in required
briefs. If you are absent, late, or unprepared when called on, that will be noted, and will
have a negative impact when calculating your final grade.

The grade reached after calculating the participation, midterm, and final exam will be the
minimum grade you can receive in the course. At the professor's sole discretion, your
course grade may be raised based on classroom participation, effort and/or improvement.

General Instructions on Taking Exams

Answer each question fully, clearly, and in the order given. Mere conclusions receive no
credit. You should:
- Discuss the issue.
- Define and discuss any principles of law and legal theories that are relevant to
  the question.
- Fully apply the given facts to the legal principles on which you rely. Do not ignore
  any facts, even if they do not support your conclusions. Do not assume that the reader
  knows what you’re talking about. Define every legal term used.
- You must base your conclusions on complete and intelligent applications of the
  facts to the legal principles involved. Thoughtful arguments and detailed analysis are
  more important that the conclusion that you reach.
- If further facts could affect the outcome of the problem, state with particularity
  what they are, and how they could affect the outcome.
- Use the IRAC format, just as we do in class. Discuss the issues involved, the
  applicable legal rules, and an application of the law to the facts to reach your outcome.
  Discuss all issues; some questions have more than one issue.
- If you need scratch paper to make notes, use your exam itself. Although you must turn in the exam, your notes will not be graded. You may also designate a page of your bluebook as "notes" and that page will not be graded.

**Be sure to:**

- Use non-erasable dark blue or black ink for your essays.
- Do not use white-out or tear pages out of your bluebook.
- Use pencil on the scantron.
- Bring one large bluebook and one 882 scantron to the midterm. Bring two large bluebooks and one 882 scantron to the final.
  o Do not write your name on the bluebook - they will be exchanged in class.
  o When you get the bluebook in class that you will use for your exam, write your name on the **inside back cover** of the bluebook. Do not write your name elsewhere on the bluebook. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure blind grading.
  o Write on only one side of each page; however you may use the facing page to insert information.
- Write your name on the typed exam itself.
- When you complete the exam, place the exam and scantron inside your bluebook and turn all of them in as a package.

One point will be deducted from your exam grade for each instruction you fail to follow. Failure to return the exam itself will result in a grade of "F" for the exam and may be referred to the Dean's office for further proceedings.

All exams are closed book. Make sure that all study materials are completely out of sight. Make sure that all books, notes, bookbags, and purses are placed in front of the class at the start of the exam. **Cell phones must be turned off and stowed away.** There is a presumption of cheating if any study materials are within view during exams. Note: all cases of cheating result in a grade of "F" for the course and are referred to the Dean's office for further action.

**Legal Advice**

**Faculty members may not provide legal advice or legal services to students.** If you need legal advice or information regarding the law, resources can be found on the Department of Business Law web page at http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources.

**If you have any questions about the material contained in this syllabus, please contact the professor.**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class topics</th>
<th>Work due</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Intro; and The Idea</td>
<td>Read syllabus; Read Ch. 2; brief Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>Finish Ch. 2; brief Buchwald and Nadel Read Ch. 3; brief Ringgold, and Sheldon</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>Finish Ch. 3; brief MGM, Allen, Campbell, and Elvis</td>
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<td>9/20</td>
<td>Trademarks and merchandising</td>
<td>Read Ch. 4; brief Bell, Kassbaum, ETW Corp. and Columbus Rose</td>
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<td>9/27</td>
<td>Privacy and publicity rights</td>
<td>Read Ch. 5; brief Maritote, Miller, Greenstein, Aronson, Johnston, and Boring (turn in)</td>
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<td>10/4</td>
<td>Finish publicity rights</td>
<td>Finish Ch. 5; brief Zucchini, Wendt, and Shaw.</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>Defamation</td>
<td>Read Ch. 12; brief Costanza, Seelig, Cohen, Greenbaum, and Lyle</td>
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<td>10/18</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>10/25</td>
<td>Representation – agents, managers</td>
<td>Read Ch. 6; brief Wil-Helm, Friedkin, Grammar, Crown, Wachs, and Marathon Entertainment</td>
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<td>11/1</td>
<td>Representation – lawyers, unions</td>
<td>In Ch. 7; Brief Croce (turn in). In Ch. 8, read pgs 462 - 505; brief Marquez, Marino, DGA, Yari, and Wills</td>
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<td>11/8</td>
<td>Guest speaker</td>
<td>In-class activity related to guest speaker</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Read Ch. 9, pages 522-523, 533-549; brief Isley, Platinum Record, Michael Coppel Promotions and Kass. Also read 719-730 in Ch. 11; brief MCA Records</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
<td>TV contracts; Reality tv; talk shows</td>
<td>Ch 9, pages 567-598; brief Gilliam, Preminger, SEG, Campoverde, Pemerton, and Girlfriends (turn in).</td>
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<td>11/29</td>
<td>Game shows; pay or play</td>
<td>Ch. 9, pages 598-612; brief Gelbman, Rosner, and Wright. Ch 11 - read pgs 706-718; brief Parker and This Is Me, Inc.</td>
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<td>12/6</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Read Ch 10; brief Loren, Smithers, King, Tamarind and Kronemyer</td>
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<td>12/13</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>8am-10am</td>
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