Law for Entrepreneurs LEB 380.26 - 03515 - Spring 2010

Instructor: Christopher H. Meakin

Meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Classroom: GSB 3.138

Instructor's Office: CBA 2.226 (northeast corner of the ground floor)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and other times by

appointment.

Email: Christopher.Meakin@Mccombs.utexas.edu

Phone: 471.7616. If you leave a message, please state your full name and

a telephone number where you can be reached. I will return your

call promptly.

Text: THE ENTREPRENEUR'S GUIDE TO Business LAW, 3nd Edition,

Constance Bagley and Craig Dauchy.

MANAGERS AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT, 5th Edition, Constance

Bagley and Diane Savage.

Additionally, you will be provided with supplements.

Objective: In this class students examine the principal legal issues facing

those who wish to create and manage their own business ventures and those who deal with entrepreneurs. Students learn to choose the right business entity and how that entity is governed, basic contract law, tort law and intellectual property. They also learn about employment law, the law regarding business competition and legal issues relating the raising of capital. Students are taught by

the Socratic Method.

Grading: Your grade will be made up of the following components.

Journal – due May 4th 15%

Class attendance and contribution 25% 1st Exam – March 2th 30% 2nd Exam – May 6th 30% For each exam you be allowed to bring one 8 1/2" x 1" piece of paper with anything you wish written on it (both front and back side) in only your own handwriting. Your full

name must be written on both sides of the sheet in letters at least **this big**. The sheet shall be turned in with the exam. The exams will only test your application of material covered during the period immediately preceding that exam. For example, the 2nd Exam will only test you on material we discussed after the 1st exam and before the 2nd Exam. Your final grade will be subject to a curve.

Exams will be offered on the dates scheduled during class. Exceptions to the rule in the previous sentence will only be granted under the most extreme circumstances such as a serious illness of you or a loved one at the time of the exam.

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Computers and other electronic devices may not be used during class.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester I may assign extra credit exercises during class. They will not be difficult but you must in attendance for the entire class period and on time on the day of the assignment and on the day the assignment is due. Unless advised otherwise, the extra credit should be turned in during class in hard copy. Work without a name will be disregarded.

Attendance, Assignments, and Class Contribution:

Please read the assigned chapters from the text and the corresponding supplement pages (with special emphasis on the cases) before each class. We all must attend each class with a firm understanding of the assignment for that day and a willingness to participate in class discussions so that we each may benefit from the ideas of the others. You will be expected to be able to answer questions and ask relevant and thoughtful questions. When evaluating any individual's contribution, quantity and volume are much less important than quality and perceptiveness. At the beginning of each class a roll sheet will be circulated. If you were in your seat ready to participate at the beginning of class, please mark yourself present with your initials. If you were not present and ready at the beginning of class but arrive later, please mark tardy. If you leave class before it is completed please mark that event on the roll sheet Signing the roll sheet during class is the responsibility of the student. The roll sheets will be the only measure of your attendance.

Any student who misses three classes is subject to a letter grade reduction. Two tardies will count as a missed class. Significant additional absences or tardies will result in a failing grade

Journal

You will keep a journal throughout the semester. The journal should contain one current news article for almost each week that the class meets for a total of 12 entries. The article may be on any topic related to the law and the activities of an entrepreneur. Please produce or reproduce the article onto 8½" x 11" paper. Additionally, each article shall be accompanied by your thoughts on the issues raised by the article including the legal issues you have identified, who must deal or has dealt with the issues, your recommendation or critique on how the issue should be or was handled. Your thoughts should be no more than one page. You should bring your journal and be prepared to discuss your article each week. The journals are due on the last day of class before the last exam date. The journal should be a professional work product (i.e. neatness counts) but no binder is required. A staple in the upper left hand corner is sufficient.

Your work:

Unless you are specifically instructed to work with others, your work in this class such as the exam sheets and extra credit assignments shall be your own independent work.

Honor Code:

The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business requires each enrolled student to adopt the Honor System. The Honor Pledge best describes the conduct promoted by the Honor System. It reads as follows: "I affirm that I belong to the honorable community of The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Business. I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate those who do. I pledge my full support to the Honor System. I agree to be bound at all times by the Honor System and understand that any violation may result in my dismissal from the Graduate School of Business."

Note:

Nothing in this syllabus displaces the overarching laws of common sense, logic, truth, grace or humor.

Preliminary Class Schedule Spring 2010 (we will move at our own pace) Please check Blackboard for where we are on any given day.

Classes will not meet during the weeks of March 8th and March 15th

<u>Topic</u> <u>Please have read</u>

A. Introduction -

Sources of law and leaving gracefully E 1, 2

M pp. 430-433

Supp. 1 up to Personal Property

Choosing counsel E 3

B. How things are owned and how ownership is exploited and protected

Property E 14 M 19 & 11

Supp. 1 on Personal Property

C. How to exchange ownership rights in an enforceable manner

Contracts E 8 & M 7 Sales E 9 & M 8

D. Business entities – maximizing control and minimizing personal liability

Agency M 5

Choosing a business entity E 4 & 5, M 20 Working with a business entity E 6, M 21

E. Minimizing business liabilities

Operational Liabilities E11 & M 9 and 10 Human Resources E10 & M 12 & 13

F. Raising money so the risk of loss is theirs

Financing and Securities Regulation E 7 & M 22 - 23

G. Exits

Bankruptcy E 12 & M 24 (pp. 951-979)

Selling and buying a business E 16

Key

E = Entrepreneurs Guide

M = Managers and the Legal Environment

S = Supplement