

University of Indianapolis
Steve Maple
telephone 788-3316

Business Law MBA 500

Summer, 2006 **Eve.**

e- mail: smaple@uindy.edu

I. *Course Objectives:* to understand basic legal concepts and terminology; to study the function of the courts and administrative agencies in making and interpreting the law; to learn the basic principles in the substantive law areas of agency, business associations, securities, franchising, Uniform Commercial Code, creditors' rights and bankruptcy, cyberlaw, employment law and consumer law.

II. *Teaching Method:* the class presentation will be by the lecture method, using hypothetical situations to illustrate and explain legal concepts. Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions.

III. *Course Outline and Reading Schedule*

- May 17 Sources of the law; handout. Basics of litigation, ch. 18 in text
Scan: www.gpo.gov (Federal documents)
www.law.cornell.edu ("Law about...")
www.findlaw.com
www.uscourts.gov ("Library/Publications: Understanding the Fed. Courts")
www.supremecourtus.gov
www.ai.org. (Indiana Supreme and Courts of Appeals, Judicial System)
www.indygov.org (Marion County Courts)
- 24 Constitution; handout.
Read: *New York Times v Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964) U of I Lib. LEXIS
Scan: www.gpo.gov ("Core Documents of U.S. Democracy - Constitution")
Administrative law, ch. 22 in text.
Read: *Bunny Bear v Peterson*, 473 F.2d 1002 (1st.Cir.1973) LEXIS
Scan: www.ftc.gov; www.sec.gov; www.eeoc.gov; www.epa.gov; www.nlr.gov
- 31 Employment law, ch. 12, 13 & 14.
Read: *Griggs v Duke Power*, 401 U.S. 424 (1971)
Lechmere v NLRB, 502 U.S. 527 (1992)
Scan: www.eeoc.gov; www.dol.gov; www.nlr.gov; www.osha.gov
- June 7 Contracts and sales law, ch. 16, and handout
Read: *I.C.C. Protect Coat. v A.E. Staley Mfg.*, 695 N.E.2d 1030 (Ind.App.1998)
Kokomo Vets. v Schick, 439 N.E. 2d 639 (Ind.App. 1982)
- 14 Products liability, negligence and other torts, ch. 20.
Read: *Basicker v Denny's*, 704 N.E.2d 1077 (Ind.App.1999)
Ford Motor Co. v Reed, 689 N.E.2d 751 (Ind.App.1997)
Scan: www.epsc.gov
Consumer law, ch. 19.
Read: *Thompson Medical Co. v FTC*, 791 F.2d 189 (D.C. Cir.1986) LEXIS
Scan: www.ftc.gov

21 **Test.**

28 Agency, ch. 16 (p. 204) and Ch. 17 in text; handout.

Read: *Warner Trucking v Hall*, 653 N.E.2d 1057 (Ind.App.1995) LEXIS

Overview of business entities, ch. 1 in text.

Scan: www.sba.gov "Starting Your Own Business" and www.ai.org (INSec.State)

Partnerships and other entities, ch. 2, 4, and 5 in text.

Read: *Hansford v Maplewood Park*, 621 N.E.2d 347 (Ind.App.1993)

July 5 Corporations and tax overview, Ch. 3 and 6.

Read: *Murray v Conseco, Inc.*, 795 N.E.2d 454 (Ind.2003)

Scan: www.ai.org -- "Business Forms" (IN Sec. of State)

Antitrust law, handout..

Read: www.ftc.gov -- "Promoting Competition ... " (Guide to Antitrust laws)

"Exxon-Mobil Divestiture" (News Release Nov 30, '99)

Read: *U.S. v Grinnell Corp.*, 384 U.S. 563 (1966) LEXIS

Scan: www.doj.gov -- Antitrust web site

12 Financing and securities law, ch. 10 and handout .

Read: *U.S. v O'Hagan*, 521 U.S. 642 (1997) LEXIS

Read: www.sec.gov

Buying an existing business, ch. 8. Franchising, ch. 9.

Read: www.ftc.gov -- "Consumer Guide to Buying a Franchise"

Bankruptcy, ch. 24; "New Bankruptcy Law @findlaw.com/newbankruptcy-law

19 Intellectual property, ch. 21.

Read: *Leigh v Warner Bros.*, 212 F.3d 1210 (11thCir.2000) LEXIS

Scan: www.uspto.gov and www.loc.gov

Property, ch 11 and insurance, ch. 15. Creditor's rights, ch. 20.

Read: *Hopping v Wood*, 526 N.E.2d 1205 (Ind.App.1988)

HCC Credit v Springs Valley Bank, 712 N.E.2d 952 (Ind.1999)

Johnson v Scandia Assoc., 717 N.E.2d 24 (Ind.1999)

Scan: www.epa.gov and www.hud.gov

26 **TEST.**

IV. Grades: Tests each 30% and quizzes 20% and internet assignments 20% (**Five quizzes of at least seven count; no makeup of quizzes**). Assignments include internet law-related searches, e.g. EPA Superfund site for Marion County and brief ethics articles. Law and ethics issues will be introduced throughout the course.

V. Attendance: mandatory at U of I. Withdrawal is through Registrar's office.

VI. Text: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Law for Small Business Owners*, Internet, and handouts.

VII. *Competencies:*

A. Basics You Need To Know

1. Courts and procedure
2. Fundamental Constitutional rights
3. Agency law: principal/agent relationship, and relationship to 3d parties
4. Business organizations: organization and operation of
 - a. partnership and limited liability partnership
 - b. limited partnership
 - c. limited liability company
 - d. corporation
5. Federal securities laws: issuance of securities and market regulation
6. Federal antitrust laws: monopoly and price-fixing
7. UCC Sales
 - a. contract formation
 - b. terms of contract
 - c. contract performance
 - d. remedies for contract breach
8. Tort of product liability and UCC warranties, and other torts
9. Federal and state consumer rights laws
10. Creditor's and debtor's rights laws
11. Employment discrimination and regulation laws
12. Personal and real property; bailment
13. UCC secured transactions: lending practices regarding
14. Federal bankruptcy law and procedure
15. Administrative law
16. Cyberlaw
17. Intellectual property: patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets

B. Demonstrating What You Know

1. Using the law to analyze legal problems on essay questions and in class.
2. Researching on the internet.
3. Reading and understanding case and statutory law.

