I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with hands-on training in the use of both primary and secondary legal sources, including: reported court decisions, constitutions, statutes, administrative regulations, court rules, treatises, legal encyclopedias, and legal periodicals. Various legal finding tools such as digests, citators, annotated statutes, legal dictionaries, and form-books are also discussed. Students will also receive training in computer-assisted legal research and proper Bluebook citation format.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

GOAL A: Prepare documents necessary for the representation of clients in a legal matter

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
A-1 List examples of American legal sources within the categories of: primary authority, secondary authority, and Finding Tools
A-2 Define primary authority and secondary authority
A-3 Describe the purpose of primary and secondary authority in the process of legal research
A-4 Evaluate legal authority based on: availability, reliability, credibility, coverage, and cost
A-5 Prepare proper Bluebook citations

GOAL B: Perform factual and legal research

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
B-1 Identify key terms, concepts, or facts, in a hypothetical fact scenario
B-2 Generate an expanded list of key terms or concepts
B-3 Analyze hypothetical facts for potential legal issues
B-4 Develop a research plan
B-5 Locate secondary authority which explains a particular issue of law utilizing: encyclopedias, treatises, legal periodicals, and A.L.R annotations
B-6 Locate primary authority on a particular issue of law utilizing: reporters, statutory codes, constitutions, and administrative regulations
B-7 Create Boolean search strings for key-word searching in online databases
B-8 Validate research findings utilizing Shepard’s® printed or online citator

GOAL C: Perform all delegated functions in conformity with the legal and ethical principles regulating the legal services industry

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
C-1 Describe the ethical duties of diligence, competence, and candor as they relate to the process of legal research

GOAL D: Organize and maintain printed and electronic information related to multiple ongoing interests through effective prioritization and time management

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
D-1 Develop and execute an ongoing, independent research project while meeting periodic deadlines
D-2 Select and gather findings and present in an organized and professional manner

GOAL E: Interact professionally and cooperatively with a service orientation toward co-workers, clients, and vendors.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
E-1 Practice working cooperatively with peers to complete tasks
E-2 Prepare and present an oral summary of research findings