COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Litigation Skills Workshop ("LSW") is a skills-based, experiential learning course that provides students with opportunities to develop the toolbox necessary to be effective advocates in complex litigation before regulatory and judicial bodies. LSW is organized around a range of carefully selected litigation case studies that highlight evidentiary, procedural, and ethical issues that can arise in different litigation settings. These issues will be explored using a workshop methodology that allows students to work closely and collegially with their instructor, guest lecturers, and peers. Although the course will teach students skills in the context of complex public interest-related litigation, LSW will deliver skills training that is relevant in all litigation settings.

By the end of the course, students will be able to think critically about how to commence and manage complex litigation. Key questions to be addressed include: How do I develop a legal strategy for the case? What kind of evidence will be needed to support the legal strategy? How do I secure, manage and aduce expert opinion and other forms of evidence? How can pre-hearing procedures, including discovery and document disclosure, advance the overall legal strategy? How do I develop an evidentiary record that provides a robust basis for a subsequent judicial review? What ethical and professional conduct issues arise when managing litigation of this type?

Students will be evaluated through completion of exercises and assignments aimed at developing their practice skills relevant to the key course topics. Such exercises may include: leading in-class seminars; drafting mock pleadings, applications, preparing instruction letters to experts; preparing and conducting direct and cross examinations of expert and other witnesses; and drafting legal arguments. The instructor will assign written grades for all assignments and evaluate the students’ performance at the end of the term with an overall grade.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

Lectures, Guest Lectures, Class Discussion, Student Presentations & Assignments

COURSE EVALUATION

Class Presentation and Assignments 100%

June 2019

1 The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is subject to change. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).