



Legal Issues 1

3 CEUs

Spring 2009

Instructor: Judith A. Maier, M.B.A., J.D.

Contact hours:	All Days – 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Phone:	253.584.3686 (Try this number first)
Cell Phone:	253.279.2664
E-mail:	jmaier@omnitekwa.com
Course Web page:	http://faculty.washington.edu/jam06/LI/
Class meetings:	May 5 – June 9 No Class on May 25 – Memorial Day Observed Monday 6 – 9 p.m., Room WCG 116
Prerequisites:	Acceptance in UW Paralegal Program or permission of Program Director and Instructor.
Technology requirements:	Access to computer with word processing and printer; ability to connect to the internet, UWNetID.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Substantive course in the fundamentals of contemporary family law with emphasis on Washington State law; broad introduction to intellectual property law, international law, real estate law, and electronic discovery. The student will be introduced to the topic either by readings, research, or projects. Material will be presented that will enable the student to gain a broad understanding of that area of the law.

. Course emphasizes the basic legal principles by examining the relevant statutes and invites students to apply those principles through class discussion and a series of practical, written exercises.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, you will

- be able to articulate the requirements for a valid marriage in Washington; the possible ways to challenge the validity of a marriage, and the requirements for a prenuptial agreement;
- be able to make classification decisions regarding simple types of property as either community or separate property;
- have a basic understanding of the dissolution process under Washington law; the principles of spousal maintenance, property and liability division in dissolution;
- have a basic understanding of parenting plans and child support under Washington law; and
- have a basic understanding of adoption and the confidentiality rules governing the submission of documents to courts in Washington.
- list the various types of intellectual property and the methods by which intellectual property may be protected;
- articulate the process by which the various kinds of intellectual property protection may be established, their duration, and the process to enforce them;

- list the significant international agreements that affect the conduct of U.S. business in foreign jurisdictions and articulate their significant principles;
- articulate the meaning of electronic discovery, what it encompasses, and describe the paralegal's role in the electronic discovery process;
- understand the relevant technologies used in law offices today; and
- have a basic understanding of real estate law.

COURSE TOPICS

The course will cover the following topics:

- Marriage
- Characterization of Property
- Dissolution, Division of Assets and Liabilities, Spousal Maintenance
- Parenting Plans / Child Support / Paternity
- Adoption
- Confidentiality
- Electronic submission of records to courts; Data Security in the Legal Environment
- Intellectual Property
- International Law
- Electronic Discovery
- Legal Technology
- Real Estate – purchase and sale; financing

COURSE FORMAT

This is a lecture / discussion course in which topics are presented by the instructor and supplemented by class discussion. Students will learn about the law by examining the relevant Washington statutes and be asked to apply their knowledge of the various topics through a series of written assignments and in-class small group assignments.

TEXTS AND REQUIRED SUPPLIES

Required text: Walter Wadlington & Raymond C. O'Brien, Family Law in Perspective (2d ed. Foundation Press 2007). ISBN: 978-1-59941-238-2

The text should be available in the bookstore.

You can order it directly from Foundation Press: www.foundation-press.com.

Supplies: paper, pens, pencils, computer disks

Bring to Each Class: writing paper, pen, and pencil, assignments as directed by instructor

EVALUATION AND GRADING

- Grading is SC/USC (successful completion/unsuccessful completion). SC is a minimum of B or higher. **To receive a grade of SC in the course, you must complete and turn in every assignment.**
- 80% attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the end of each class session.
- There will not be a final exam!
- Coursework will be weighted as follows:

Project 1	15%	Characterization of Property in Washington
Project 2	15%	Marriage in Washington

Project 3	15%	Dissolution, Spousal Maintenance in Washington
Project 4	15%	Parenting Plans, Child Support in Washington
Project 5	10%	Intellectual Property
Project 6	10%	International Law
Project 7	10%	Real Estate Purchase & Sale
Project 8	10%	Real Estate Financing
Total	100%	

Class Participation: Your participation will be considered by the instructor to enhance or lower your grade.

CLASS RULES & TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Try to not miss class.
- Do not put off completing assignments.
- If you are feeling lost, behind, or confused, call me.
- Turn off all cell phones and pagers during class.
- Computers may be used during class.
- You may ask a question, or share a comment with the class at any time during class; but, please raise your hand and be recognized before doing so. Unless you are speaking to the class or working on a group assignment, you should not be talking during class because it is distracting to your classmates.
- Participate fully and share your ideas. Share “air time” with other students. Recognize that there are no “right” answers in the law – only options. Listen to and question everything!
- Class will begin on time at 6 p.m. and it will end on time at 9 p.m. Please be prepared to be on time and expect to leave at 9 p.m. Should you, on occasion, need to arrive late to class or to depart early, please show respect to your classmates by entering or leaving as quietly as possible.
- Finally, I am open to your comments and suggestions about the class sessions. They help me to improve your learning environment. Please feel free to share your comments with me without fear that they will affect your grade. You can e-mail me, phone me, or write to me. The latter is the best way to guarantee your anonymity—simply do not put your name on the piece of paper. Often, I will react to student comments in class, by paraphrasing the comment or suggestion and explaining either why I am adopting it or why I am not adopting it. Should I elect to react to a comment or suggestion, I will not announce your name.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC
March 30	Introduction to Family Law & Characterization of Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reading assignment for this class. <u>But bring a printed copy of the Washington Community Property statute to class with you on March 30.</u> We will be working from it in class. • Assignment for Next Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Chapters 1, 2 & 3 ○ Complete Project 1: Characterization of Property ○ Bring a printed copy of the Washington Marriage Statute to Class
April 6	Marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Chapters 5 & 6 ○ Complete Project 2: Marriage in Washington ○ Bring a printed copy of the Washington Dissolution Statute to Class
April 13	Dissolution, Spousal Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Chapters 7, 8, & 9 ○ Complete Project 3: Dissolution, Spousal Support in Washington ○ Bring a printed copy of the Washington
April 20	Parenting Plans / Child Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Chapter 11 ○ Complete Project 4: Parenting Plans, Child Support in Washington • Course Evaluation
April 27	Adoption, Confidentiality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading Assignment – cases
May 4	Intellectual Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading Assignment – cases ○ Complete Project 5, Intellectual Property
May 11	International Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading Assignment – cases ○ Complete Project 6, International Law
May 18	Real Estate Purchase & Sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete Project 7, Real Estate Purchase & Sale
May 25	No Class –Memorial Day Holiday
June 1	Real Estate Financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment for Next Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete Project 8, Real Estate Financing

June 8	Electronic Discovery & Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assignment!
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Schedule of Project Due Dates

Note: To receive credit for your assignment, be certain that you have placed your name in the upper right-hand corner of each page of your assignment!

For each project, name your file using your last name and the project number. For example, if your last name is “Smith” and you are turning in Project 1, the file name should be: Smith-1.

Project	Due by 6 p.m. on	Method of Submission
1: Characterization of Property in Washington	April 6	Collect-It
2: Marriage in Washington	April 13	Collect-It
3: Dissolution, Spousal Support in Washington	April 20	Collect-It
4: Parenting Plans, Child Support in Washington	April 27	Collect-It
5: Intellectual Property	May 11	Collect-It
6: International Law	May 18	Collect-It
7: Real Estate – Purchase & Sale	June 1	Collect-It
8: Real Estate – Financing	June 8	Collect-It