



LEGAL RESEARCH

LGR200 — Legal Research, 3.0 hours

PROFESSOR

Cathryn Ensign is a well respected attorney who has concentrated her practice on civil litigation, workers' compensation defense, and employment law for over 30 years. In her practice, she represents employers, both public and private, in workers' compensation and employment related issues. She frequently appears at both administrative hearings before state agencies representing employers in unemployment and workers' compensation claims. Cathryn litigates employment issues in Courts, both State and Federal on a variety of issues including discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage & hour and wrongful termination of employment. Cathryn also has considerable experience with the defense of safety violations (VSSR) claims and intentional tort actions.

Named one of Cleveland's Top Rated Lawyers 2019 in Labor & Employment, Litigation and Workers' Compensation by Martindale Hubbell, AV Preeminent. Cathryn is honored to have held this rating for over 18 years.

Specialties: Cathryn has counseled employers on personnel and human resources related issues involving Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA & ADAAA) and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) compliance matters.

Cathryn previously taught classes in Criminal Justice; Legal Studies; Advanced Legal Writing & Legal Research; Civil Litigation; Employment Law and Administrative Law.

Cathryn currently is a Partner and Head of Litigation for the Gertsburg Law Firm where she concentrates on Employment Law and Civil Litigation matters.

Attorney Ensign provides volunteer attorney services to Legal Aid Society clients and hospice patients.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Cell Phone : 1-800-517-0857 ext. 721

ONLINE SUPPORT (IT) AND MOODLE NAVIGATION:

All members of the Lakewood University community who use the University's computing, information or communication resources must act responsibly. Support is accessible by calling 1-800-517-0857 option 2 or by emailing info@lakewood.edu

BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Putman, William, H. and Jennifer Albright. Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing. 5th Edition. Cengage Learning US, 2023.

EVALUATION METHOD

Graded work will receive a numeric score reflecting the quality of performance.

Course Requirement Summary

- Assignments - Total of 40 Points
- Weekly discussion forums-Total of 80 Points
- Midterm Exam - 20 Points
- Final Exam - 50 Points

GRADING SCALE

Graded work will receive a numeric score reflecting the quality of performance as given above in evaluation methods. The maximum number of points a student may earn is 190. To determine the final grade, the student's earned points are divided by 190.

Your overall course grade will be determined according to the following scale:

A = (90% -100%)

B = (80% - 89%)

C = (70% - 79%)

D = (60% - 69%)

F < (Below 60%)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ PLAGIARISM:

Cheating (dishonestly taking the knowledge of another person whether on a test or an assignment and presenting it as your work) and plagiarism (to take and pass off as one's own the ideas or writing of another) are a serious issue. While it is legitimate to talk to others about your assignments and incorporate suggestions, do not let others "write" your assignments in the name of peer review or "borrow" sections or whole assignments written by others. We do get ideas from life experiences and what we read but be careful that you interpret these ideas and make them your own.

I am aware that many types of assignments are available on the internet and will check these sources when there is legitimate suspicion.

Penalty is a zero on the assignment. In cases where there is a major or continuous breach of trust, further discipline, such as an "F" in the course, may be necessary.

The major consequence of any form of cheating is damage to your character and the result of trust and respect.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who have a disability and wish to request an academic accommodation should contact Jim Gepperth, the Disabilities Services Coordinator and Academic Dean. The student can request an accommodation at any time although it is encouraged to do so early in the enrollment process. The student should complete an accommodation request form which begins a conversation between the school and the student regarding the nature of their disability and an accommodation that would help the student succeed in their program. The school may request documentation regarding the disability to address the accommodation request effectively. The school will communicate to the student the type of accommodation arranged. This process typically follows a team approach, bringing together persons from the academic department (including the instructor) and personnel from other departments as necessary. Additional information on disability accommodations may be found in the Lakewood University Catalog.

Disability Services Email: disabilityservices@lakewood.edu

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS

You can use the following resources to assist you with proper source citation.

American Psychological Association Style Guide- https://www.mylakewoodu.com/pluginfile.php/118179/mod_resource/content/1/APA%20Style%20Guide%207th%20edition.pdf

The Purdue OWL website is also a helpful resource for students. Here is a link to the OWL website: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

LIBRARY

Mary O'Dell is the Librarian on staff at Lakewood University

She is available by appointment. You can make an appointment with her by emailing her at modell@lakewood.edu or call at 1-800-517-0857 X 730

You may also schedule a meeting at this link: <https://my.setmore.com/calendar#monthly/r3a761583354923270/01032020>

She can assist you with navigating LIRN, research, citations etc.

SUPPORT

Each student at Lakewood University is assigned a Success Coach. Your Success Coach exists to assist you with academic and supportive services as you navigate your program. They will reach out to you, often, to check-in. Please use the resources they offer.

Student Services is available to assist with technical questions regarding Lakewood University and all services available to you.

1-800-517-0857 option 2
info@lakewood.edu
studentservices@lakewood.edu

CAREER SERVICES

Students are offered Career Services at any point as they journey their academics at Lakewood University.

1-800-517-0857 option 2
careerservices@lakewood.edu

LESSONS

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to Legal Principles and AuthoritiesIntroduction to Legal Research and Analysis	Study Course Syllabus Read Chapters 1 & 2 Review PowerPoints Participate in the Discussion Forum Complete Assignment 1	Assignment 1 upon completion of the lesson	Objective 6 Objective 1 Objective 2 Objective 3

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #2				Objective 9

- Constitutions, Statutes, Administrative Law, and Court Rules-- Research and Analysis
- Read Chapters 3
Review PowerPoints
Participate in 2 Discussion Forum

Objective 3
Objective 4
Objective 5
Objective 6

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Law--Research and Briefing 	Read Chapters 4 Review PowerPoints Participate in the Discussion Forum Complete Assignment 2	Assignment 2 upon completion of the lesson	Objective 6 Objective 7

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Authority and Other Research Sources-- Encyclopedias, Treatises, American Law Reports, Digests, Shepard's 	Read Chapters 5 Review PowerPoints Complete Midterm Writing Assignment	Midterm Writing Assignment completion of the lesson	Objective 6 Objective 7 Objective 8

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Authority-- Periodicals, Restatements, Uniform Laws, Dictionaries, Legislative History, and Other Secondary Authorities 	Read Chapters 6 Review PowerPoints Participate in 2 Discussion Forum		Objective 6 Objective 8

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers and Legal Research • Commercial Internet Research 	Read Chapters 7 Review PowerPoints Participate in the Discussion Forum Complete Assignment 3	Assignment 3 upon completion of the lesson	Objective 6 Objective 8 Objective 10

TITLE	COURSE TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Analysis-Key Facts, Legal Analysis: Issue Identification-- Spotting the Issue, Legal Analysis: Stating the Issue 	Read Chapters 9, 10, & 11 Review PowerPoints Participate in the Discussion Forum Complete Assignment 4	Assignment 4 upon completion of the lesson	Objective 6 Objective 11

TITLE	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE	OBJECTIVES
Lesson #8	Review the PowerPoint Complete the Mini Capstone Project (Westlaw and LexisNexis) Course Evaluation	Final exam upon completion of the lesson	Objective 1 Objective 2 Objective 3 Objective 6

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to reach the fundamentals of Legal Research. The student will learn research tools and techniques necessary to find the actual law, but also how to use the various secondary materials, which assist in the research process. Some topics covered are: Case Reporters, Digests, Codes, Annotated Codes, Annotated Reporters, Citators, Loose-leaf Services, Legal Encyclopedias, Treatises, and Computerized Research Services.

Program Objectives

1. Discuss the different research resources available to paralegals.
2. Discuss new trends in online researching.
3. Explain the differences between Westlaw and LexisNexis.
4. Demonstrate how to read case law decisions.
5. Employ the use of constitutions, statutes, and administrative rules/regulations.

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