Family Law Seminar
Summer 2010
Professor Hartfield

Syllabus

Family Law Seminar is a collaborative research seminar that provides an opportunity for each student to undertake an in-depth study of a problem that was introduced in the basic family law course. This seminar will consider selected issues of access to the justice system to resolve issues affecting families and children. The primary focus will be families with low to moderate income and limited financial resources.

Materials: There is no textbook for the seminar. Citations will be provided for assigned materials to be accessed electronically.

Requirements: Regular attendance is required. Owing to the collaborative nature of the course, only one absence is permitted. Students with more than one absence will receive a failing grade. Preparation and participation are expected. Class participation consists of weekly participation and a presentation on the research paper. Class participation will count as 25% of the final grade. A major research paper is required, as discussed below. A student may satisfy the writing requirement if the research paper (not the final grade) receives a grade of C+ or better.

A major analytical research paper on an approved topic related to the course theme is required. The paper will count as 75% of the final grade. The minimum page length is 25 pages, double-spaced with endnotes or footnotes. Endnotes or footnotes should conform to the Bluebook or ALWD rules for law review articles. The paper topic and outline must be approved by the instructor. A typed draft must be submitted. An acceptable paper will demonstrate good research, writing, analytical and organizational skills. The final paper must include a bibliography. The draft or drafts must be submitted with the final paper.

Office Hours: Available most days and early evenings by appointment.
Office Location: Room 413
Telephone: 404/413-9180  E-mail: bhartfield@gsu.edu
Assignments


Week 2  Models to Provide Access to Family Law Litigants: Each student will be assigned a court and/or an attorney program to summarize, review and preliminarily critique in a written report (approximately 1 page). Bring sufficient copies of your report(s) to share with the class.

Week 3  Prepare an informal presentation on two possible paper topics. Include a typed submission of the proposed topics, an outline of your preferred topic, your research to date (draft bibliography), and your research plan. The class will critique the proposals and help each presenter to refine the topic and outline.

Week 4  Prepare draft. E-mail citation for a case or brief article to be read by the class. Note: An individual appointment to discuss progress is recommended during Week 4,5,6 or 7.

Week 5  Submit draft at the beginning of class. Class presentations begin.

Week 6  Class presentations continue.

Week 7  Class presentations conclude.

Final papers are due by 5 p.m. on July 20, 2010 at the 4th Floor Desk. Papers may be submitted by e-mail to comply with the deadline, but a hardcopy must be submitted together with the draft or drafts by July 23, 2010.