PROPOSAL TO CHANGE A COURSE

TITLE / COURSE CODE / NUMBER / CREDITS / LEVEL / PRE & CO-REQUISITIES / DEACTIVATE

SCHOOL: CAS □ CPA □ LAW □ MSB □

CONTACT NAME: Laurie Beth Harow Phone ext: 4457

PROPOSED SEMESTER OF IMPLEMENTATION: Fall ☑ Spring (by exception only) ☐ Year: 2016

COURSE FOR WHICH CHANGE IS PROPOSED

Current Course Code and Number: LAW 825

Current Title: Trial Advocacy

☐ NEW TITLE PROPOSED:

☐ NEW COURSE CODE PROPOSED:

☐ NEW NUMBER PROPOSED:

☒ CREDITS & Course Description

CURRENT: 2

PROPOSED: 3, new course description included to reflect 3 credits of material.

☐ LEVEL

CURRENT:

PROPOSED:

☐ PRE & CO-REQUISITES

CURRENT:

PROPOSED:

☐ DEACTIVATE

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL:

In light of the newly adopted experiential learning requirement, I propose that we increase the current credits awarded for Trial Advocacy from 2 to 3; increase the maximum enrollment to 16; and change the course description slightly. Under the new experiential requirement, students must take six credits of experiential courses toward graduation. Three credits must come from a Clinic or externship; the remaining three credits may come from a Clinic/externship OR a variety of courses that have been approved as simulation courses. Trial Advocacy courses are in the simulation category.

By raising the credits to 3, we will assist students in more easily meeting the experiential requirement. Currently, students who take Trial Advocacy and a 3 credit Clinic and/or externship will need to take a third course to meet the experiential requirement. In turn, this would limit a students’ ability to take other, upper-level, non-simulation courses. While some students may wish to take additional simulation courses, it is not the intent of the Committee or the faculty that students be required to do so.
A survey last year of trial advocacy professors undertaken by Prof. Stone revealed enthusiasm for the credit increase and for a larger class size. Not only would trial advocacy professors have more time to engage students in trial advocacy exercises, but they also would be able to enroll more students in each section of trial advocacy. The main downside to the proposal will involve scheduling, as rooms will need to be reserved for greater amounts of time. Decisions will have to be made regarding whether trial advocacy will meet once a week for a longer time or whether it will meet twice a week or whether both options will be offered.

Regarding the course description, it should reflect the criteria of simulation courses, including the emphasis of teaching students to evaluate their own performances. It should better reflect the actual content of a high quality trial advocacy course. The current and proposed versions are below.

The current course description is here:

**Trial Advocacy LAW 825, 2 credits**
This course is devoted primarily to exercises by students in direct and cross-examination of witnesses and to opening and closing statements in both civil and criminal cases. The exercises are critiqued with respect to both substance and courtroom demeanor. At the conclusion of the course, students, acting in teams, take part in full trials. **Prerequisite:** Evidence [Limited Enrollment; Max 12 students]

The proposed description is here:

**Trial Advocacy LAW 825, 3 credits**
This course is devoted primarily to developing trial advocacy lawyering skills by engaging students in exercises that simulate trial practice. Students prepare lay and expert witnesses, perform exercises including direct and cross-examination and opening and closing statements, learn to develop and implement a case theory, and practice making and responding to objections. Students consider ethical and tactical issues arising in the trial process. Students conduct regular self-evaluation of their preparation and performance, and the exercises are critiqued with respect to substance, strategy, and courtroom demeanor. At the conclusion of the course, students, acting in teams, take part in full trials. **Prerequisite:** Evidence [Limited Enrollment; Max 16 students]

*No Impact Review Signatures are required*
**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE A COURSE**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>C. Final faculty review body within each School/ College</td>
<td>Michele Kilmam</td>
<td>11-3-15</td>
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<td>D. College Dean or Designee</td>
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