

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

LAW 358

Legal Clinic: Practical Preparation of GMU Patent Applications

2 credits

Day(s): Wednesday

Location: Hazel Hall 356 - Law Library

Time: 8:00pm-9:50pm

NO EXAM

Professors:

- Dale Lazar (Dale.Lazar@dlapiper.com, 703-773-4149)
- Lisa Norton (Lisa.Norton@dlapiper.com, 703-773-4141)
- David Grossman (DGrossma@gmu.edu, 703-993-4103)

The “Legal Clinic: Practical Preparation of GMU Patent Applications” class is a working seminar class where students write actual patent applications which will be filed for inventors affiliated with George Mason University. The students will each be assigned an invention. They will work directly with the inventor(s) to draft a patent application covering the invention. The inventors will likely be University professors, staff and in some cases students. Students will be instructed as to best practices with regard to meeting with the inventor(s) and drafting the patent applications. They will then be critiqued regarding their written applications. The patent applications will be written in stages, including drawings, claims, and specification, with critique on each step in the process. Multiple drafts of the complete application will be written and critiqued until it is ready for filing.

The two credit course will meet as a group for two periods every other week. The instructors will attempt to match inventions with students’ backgrounds, if possible. The course is currently limited to those students with a background or facility in computer, electrical or mechanical technology. Prerequisites are Patent Law I, Patent Law II, and Patent Writing Theory and Practice or equivalent experience.

The two credit course will fulfill the students’ writing requirement.

LAW 358
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SYLLABUS (subject to change)
SPRING 2009

Class 1 (1/7/2009)

- Introduction to Class
- Assign Invention disclosures to students
- Lecture: Inventor Interviews
- Lecture: Drawings

Homework (Due 1/23/2009):

- Interview Inventors
- Generate informal drawings of the invention

Class 2 (1/28/2009)

- Group Discussion: the interviews, inventions and drawings
- Lecture: Basic Claim Drafting
- One on One: discuss informal drawings

Homework (Due 2/6/2009):

- Update Drawings (graded 10%)
- Draft an initial set of Claims

Class 3 (2/11/2009)

- Group Discussion: the Drawings and Claims.
- Lecture: Specification Drafting.
- One on One: discuss initial set of Claims

Homework: (Due 2/20/2009):

- Update the Claims (graded 10%)

Class 4 (2/25/2009)

- Group Discussion: the Claims
- Lecture: Drafting Applications in the Computer Arts
- One on One: discuss updated Claims

Homework (Due 3/20/2009):

- Write a 1st Draft of the Specification
- Generate a separate list of questions for inventor
- Get feedback on claims and drawings from inventor

SPRING VACATION (3/11/2009)

Class 5 (3/25/2009)

- Group Discussion: the 1st Draft of the Specification
- Lecture: Application Issues (oath/declaration, inventorship, assignment considerations, IDS considerations)
- One on One: discuss 1st draft of the Specification

Homework (Due 4/3/2009):

- Write a 2nd Draft of the Specification (graded 10%)

Class 6 (4/8/2009)

- Group Discussion: the 2nd Draft of the Specification
- Lecture: Lecture: Nuts and Bolts of Filing
- One on One: discuss 2nd draft of the Specification

Homework (Due 4/17/2009):

- Get feedback on 2nd draft from inventor
- Write a Final Draft of the Specification (graded 10%)

Class 7 (4/22/2009)

- Group Discussion: the Final Draft of the Specification
- One on One: discuss Final draft of the Specification

Homework: (Due 5/1/2009):

- Submit entire application package (graded 60%)