GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Economic Foundations of Legal Studies
Law 108-002

Course Syllabus, Fall 2012
Revised 8/5/12

Professor D. Bruce Johnsen

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Course Materials:

Required: Butler & Drahozal, Economic Analysis for Lawyers (2nd Ed.)(B&D); various additional materials as posted on my TWEN site.


Course Objective:

The course is designed to provide students with the economic foundation necessary to master the concepts essential to legal practice, to understand the general contours of substantive and procedural law, and to excel in other GMUSL courses. It sheds considerable light on the common law process as an evolved economic institution.

Grading:

Grades for the course will be based on student performance on a final exam, with possible revision based on class participation. According to ABA rules, students must attend at least 80% of classes to receive a grade in the course (monitored by Honor Code and in-class sign-in). My policy is to allow one excusal from class participation per semester, provided you notify me in advance (e-mail is best).
Calendar & Reading List:

August 20:  *The Economics Perspective; It’s Science!*: Armen A. Alchian, *Uncertainty, Evolution, and Economic Theory*, 58 J.P.E. 211 (1950) (see TWEN, but a cleaner version is available on JSTOR; B&D, pp. 3-17).

August 22:  *In the Beginning there were Property Rights; Customary Law*: D. Bruce Johnsen, *Salmon, Science, and Reciprocity on the Northwest Coast*, 14 J. ECOL. & SOC. 43 (2009); D Bruce Johnsen, *The Si’lailo Redux*, 10 GREEN BAG 2d 245 (2007) (see TWEN); B&D, pp. 17-23.