

EMPIRE COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW

SYLLABUS

ELDER LAW CLINIC

SPRING SEMESTER 2012

COURSE NUMBER: C552

INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Gardner; 707-542-8384; lgardner_attorney@att.net
Clinic phone; 707-736-6150

DAY/TIME: Thursday, 3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Classes will be held at Salvation Army/Silvercrest Retirement Center
1050 3rd Street, Santa Rosa, 95404
(Note: First class session only on Thursday, January 5th meets at Empire College in the Board Room, Conference Room from 3:45-5:45pm.)

HOURS/UNITS: 30 hours—2 units

TEXT: *Elder Law in a Nutshell*, Frolik West. 4th Edition.
ISBN# 9780314167774

GRADING: Pass/Fail.

Student grades are based on participation in the clinic, which includes regular attendance, completion of assignments, client work and/or research in a timely manner, and dressing and acting in a professional manner.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To provide the student with real life client counseling opportunities with elderly persons. This clinic allows students to interact with clients, provide advice and follow up and direct clients to legal and non-legal resources. The students will draft legal documents and correspondence under supervision of a practicing attorney. Students will also prepare and present a paper/pamphlet on a topic of their choice. (Topic must be approved by instructor). The paper will be written about a legal topic of interest to elderly persons and will be written for the layperson. The paper will be provided to the clinic staff in Microsoft Word format. The presentation will be made to the class and may also be to a group of senior citizens. Twenty (20) copies of the paper must be brought to the presentation. The paper will be in lieu of a final. The clinic will provide the public with free legal advice.

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CLASS POLICIES: Clinic participation and attendance are mandatory; cell phones and electronic communications are prohibited during clinic time. Regular and punctual attendance is essential for the successful completion of law school. As the clinic deals with real legal issues students should plan to attend every class. If you miss or are unprepared more than two (2) classes or fail to complete assignment(s) on time, you will receive a no pass grade. Roll will be taken at each class. If you are more than ten minutes late to class you will be marked absent. **All assignments must be typed, proof read, spell checked and are due no later than the Monday following the clinic at 12:00 noon for editing, unless prior approval is granted by instructor.** All assignments and correspondence must have instructor approval prior to communicating with client.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1 First Class on Thursday, January 5th only meets at Empire College in the Board Room Conference Room from 3:45-5:45pm. After that the clinic will be held at Salvation Army/Silvercrest Retirement Center 1050 3rd Street, Santa Rosa, 95404

Introduction to basic estate planning, overview of basic elder law issues, including Medi-Cal, conservatorships, probate, administration of trusts, elder abuse. Instruction in interviewing and providing legal advice to elderly persons. Read first 4 chapters of book prior to first class.

WEEK 2: Client counseling begins at Silvercrest Retirement Center. Students must attend first and second session and complete required reading to begin client counseling.

WEEK 3 AND BEYOND: Remainder of classes consists of client counseling and advice. The beginning of class will be a forum for student questions regarding legal advice to Professor and advisory board students. Students will meet with clients off campus at Silvercrest Retirement Home, 1050 3rd Street, Santa Rosa. Students may be asked to make home visits to shut-in clients.