UMKC School of Law Elective Course Information Fall 2012

COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME:  Law 8903B – Business Investigations

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): N/A

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S): Business Organizations; Employment Discrimination; White Collar Crime; Business Planning

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

- a% of grade based on a 50-minute exam
- a% of grade based on two Writing Assignments

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE/COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course will cover the practical aspects of conducting fact investigations in the business environment, with a focus on planning, staffing and managing business investigations, understanding and developing investigative techniques appropriate for the business environment, and communicating the results of investigations and related recommendations to management and others. A theme throughout the course will be how the lawyer or business manager who is charged with the responsibility of conducting an investigation can maintain independence and avoid being compromised by pressures from management, media or other external sources of influence. Guest lecturers will include professionals with experience in the discipline.

Course objectives include the following:

- Understanding and developing the skills required to manage or to participate in business investigations.
- Recognizing the similarities and differences between criminal investigations and business investigations.
- Understanding techniques for integrating business investigations with other functions such as ethics, compliance and internal audit.
- Coordinating with law enforcement, when appropriate.
REQUIRED COURSE BOOK:  TBD

OTHER REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:  TBD

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:  Highly relevant and a necessary skill both for in-house lawyers employed by for-profit or not-for-profit organizations and for lawyers in private practice serving as outside counsel to such organizations. The course is also relevant for non-lawyer business managers who may be charged with participating in or managing business investigations.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION:  Not relevant per se, although laws relating to for-profit and not-for-profit organizations that may be covered in the bar examination will be addressed in the course.