UMKC School of Law Elective Course Information Spring 2014

COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME: Law 757 - Business Planning

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE (S): Business Organizations; Federal Taxation

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE (S): N/A

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

• 20% of grade based on 50-minute exam (approx. 5th week of semester) on “choice of entity” considerations
• 50% of grade based on a Writing Assignment involving drafting organizational documents for a hypothetical company
• 30% of grade based on a Writing Assignment involving a memorandum or report to a hypothetical client on a planning matter

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE/COURSE OBJECTIVES/EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

A study of business, legal and tax issues involved in planning for the formation, financing, operation and succession of ownership and control of a closely held business organization. Students will “interview” hypothetical clients, prepare written planning memoranda, draft documents and analyze and discuss associated substantive issues in a seminar format. The course will include interdisciplinary features, such as, for example, guest lecturers from the community and participation by individuals from business or other schools, in order to prepare students for the team production approach often associated with representing business clients.

The course objectives and expected outcomes include developing appreciation of and skills in:

• The importance of understanding the business context of addressing legal issues in planning transactions.
• Asking fact gathering questions that are well-conceived and posed in terms useful to the client.
• Drafting organizational documents for a limited liability company in a comprehensive and productive way.
• Applying law and lawyering skills to assist a client in making choices between alternative options.
• Complying with ethical rules of particular note for business planning work.

REQUIRED COURSE BOOK:

Franklin A. Gevurtz, Business Planning (most recent ed.), published by Foundation Press
OTHER REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

In addition to the required course textbook, students will be required to purchase from Roo Prints a compilation of “forms,” statutes and other materials pertinent to classroom discussions and the writing assignments.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

Highly relevant for students pursuing careers in business and/or tax law. The skills development components are designed to facilitate high quality and efficient work that should be appreciated by clients and colleagues.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION:

N/A per se, but will involve review of many legal principles that are covered on bar exams.