COURSE NAME: Conflict of Laws

COURSE NUMBER: Law 8702

PROFESSOR: Timothy E. Lynch

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: None. Some of the material in this course is closely related to issues covered in the Civil Procedure II course, but it does not matter if you take Civil Procedure II before Conflicts or not.

COURSE BOOKS: To be determined.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: The grade will be based on one or two take-home midterm exams, a final exam (which will largely be multiple choice) and class participation.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: Conflict of laws provides solutions to dilemmas posed by the fact that different political entities (like Missouri and Kansas, or the United States and France) have different laws. If a legal dispute touches more than one state or nation in some way, conflict of laws determines which courts can decide the matter and what law they will use. Here are a few examples of conflicts issues:

- You live in Kansas and work in Missouri, and you enter into a business deal with a company that is incorporated in Missouri but has its main office in Kansas. If the deal goes sour, will the dispute be governed by Missouri or Kansas contract law?
- An airliner carrying Canadian, Chinese, and American passengers takes off from Seattle, bound for China, and collides with a Russian jet in the air over Japan. Where can lawsuits be brought, and which nation’s tort law applies?
- Some countries and states permit marriages between first cousins. If two cousins get married in one of those places and then move to Missouri, will Missouri treat it as a valid marriage?

COURSE OUTCOMES: After completing the course, a student should be able to identify when a conflict of law issue may occur of when one exists in practice. The student should also be able to begin to tackle the questions associated with such issues with confidence and in a systematic, comprehensive way.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: This course is relevant for those expecting to deal with clients, transactions, events, or items that cross state or international borders. Lawyers in the Kansas City area, which straddles a state border, are likely to encounter conflict issues frequently. In fact, most lawyers will encounter such issues. This course is especially relevant for future litigators.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR BAR EXAM PREPARATION: Conflict of laws is one of the subjects tested on the essay portion of the Missouri and Kansas bar exams.