UMKC School of Law Fall 2013 IP Clinic Course Description

COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME: Law 8910 – Intellectual Property Clinic to be housed at the ELS Clinic at 4747 Troost, Ste. 213.

PRIMARY PROFESSORS: Jasmine Abdel-khalik, Christopher Holman (substantive training and guidance on IP issues) Danielle A. Merrick, Judith A. Sharp, Malika Simmons (administrative & client intake and other client representation matters)

OTHER PARTICIPATING PROFESSOR: Tony Luppino (assistance on coordination with UMKC Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation and UMKC Technology Transfer and consulting on selected matters)

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): If you want to undertake patent work, you must have taken Patent or IP Survey. If you want to undertake non-patent work, you must have taken two of the following three classes IP Survey, Business Torts, or Copyright. The selection of students may depend (among other factors) on how many or which of these classes have been taken. If you lack these prerequisites, you may still enroll if you can demonstrate substantial prior, relevant experience. All students must obtain permission to enroll from Professors Abdel-khalik or Holman.

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S): N/A

COURSE BOOKS/MATERIALS: None which students have to purchase; various required materials will be provided by the Clinic. Lists of suggested reading will be made available to the students as well.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS: None in particular; but instructors would be happy to make suggestions to students interested in background or supplementary materials.

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Ungraded. (Credit/No Credit). To pass, students must fulfill the minimum requirements of the Clinic, including 80 hours of volunteer work, attend all training sessions, and generate acceptable written work product as directed by the Clinic staff.
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: Under the supervision of faculty who are licensed attorneys, students will counsel start-up companies and their owners and assist with intellectual property matters related to Trade Secrets, Copyright, Trademark, & Patent and planning in connection with concepts related to Business Torts. Students will conduct patentability and trademark searches, prepare patent landscape reports, trademark registrations, opposition and cancelation responses and assist Clinic clients in identifying trade secrets and potential patentable inventions and preparing invention disclosures, as well as provide general intellectual property information and advice to Clinic clients. The Clinic will not prepare patent applications, prosecute patents, or handle any type of IP infringement litigation; so, like the Entrepreneurial Legal Services Clinic, its focus will be principally planning in connection with start-up ventures. Classroom instruction will be in the areas of client interviewing, client counseling, Trade Secret, Copyright, Trademark & Patent, Business Torts, and drafting of relevant intellectual property documents.

MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE: Upon completion of the course students will have developed knowledge and practical skills in the following areas associated with assisting clients who own or are establishing businesses: ability to collect and analyze relevant facts and advise clients on identifying and addressing Trade Secret, Copyright, Trademark, and Business Torts issues; the role of risk management tools; counseling business owners on legal responsibilities to co-owners and employees with respect to regulatory compliance; and identification and protection of various forms of IP, and analysis of third party IP, opposition & cancellation responses. Students’ learning is measured by the quality of their draft documents and searches, diligence and professionalism, and the quality of their interactions with Clinic clients and their analysis of legal issues.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: Participation in this Clinic will provide experience that can be valuable in seeking opportunities and performing well in careers involving intellectual property practice.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION: Not directly relevant.