

Faculty Scholarship

Course Materials

University of Georgia School of Law

Year 2009

Law and Disability Seminar

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SYLLABUS

Seminar: Law and Disability
Fall Semester, 2009

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General information:

Class meets Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. in Classroom E.

Required text:

Ruth Colker, *The Law of Disability Discrimination*, 7th ed. (Anderson, 2009).

Useful treatises (all on Reserve):

Peter Blanck, Eve Hill, Charles D. Siegal, & Michael Waterstone, *Disability Civil Rights Law and Policy*, (Thomson/West, 2004). Shelved at KF 480 .D55 2004.

Laura F. Rothstein, *Disabilities and the Law*, 3rd ed. (Thomson/West, 2006).
Kept up to date with pocket parts. Shelved at KF 480/R68/2006.

Bonnie P. Tucker & Adam A. Milani, *Federal Disability Law in a Nutshell*, 3rd ed. (Thomson West, 2004). Shelved at KF480.Z9 T83 2004.

Requirements and Assignments:

An electronic classroom (TWEN) has been established for this class. Each student must register for the e-classroom. Instructions about how to register were distributed in class. The e-classroom includes a calendar and three forums: Discussion, Course Materials, and Syllabus and Announcements. Class members are responsible for knowing any information that appears in any of the forums and are expected to participate in the Discussion forum. Your participation, both in the physical classroom and in the e-classroom, will be a part of your final grade for the course. I recommend you check the e-classroom at least four times a week. All announcements from me will be conveyed either orally in class or via the Syllabus and Announcements forum. I will also post the most current class syllabus there. Supplemental class materials, or electronic links to supplemental materials, will be entered in the Course Materials forum. You are encouraged to use the Discussion forum to extend our classroom discussions or to open a new thread we have not covered in class discussion.

Class members must complete two assignments, a minor one (20% of grade) and a major one (70% of grade). The remaining 10% of the grade will be based on class attendance, preparedness and participation. For the minor assignment, students may either (1) write a review of a movie involving a character with a disability, or (2) write a report on the state of ADA compliance in a particular part of the law school facility. Separate instruction sheets for the minor assignments will be posted in the Course Materials forum. **Minor assignments must be submitted electronically to the entire class as well as to me.** Minor assignments will not be assessed comparatively (i.e., no grade will be assigned; each student who satisfactorily completes the assignment will receive the full 20% credit). Likewise, the class attendance, preparedness and participation component will not be assessed comparatively (i.e., students who miss no more than two class meetings, who participate in class discussions and the e-class forum, and whose participation demonstrates they have read the assignments, will receive the full 10% credit).

The major assignment is a written paper that satisfies the law school advanced writing requirement (see *University of Georgia School of Law Student Handbook, 2001* at

<<http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/facstaffstu/students/handbook/adv.html>> A separate instruction sheet for the major assignment will be posted in the Course Materials forum. Each student will also conduct a class discussion of approximately 20 minutes on the topic s/he chose for the major assignment. Written papers will receive comparative (A+ through F) grading. **The major assignment must be submitted in paper to me.**

In a seminar, students learn as much from class discussion and from guest speakers as they learn from reading assignments. Therefore, **attendance counts!** A roll sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class session. A student who is 30 minutes or more late to class will not be permitted to sign the roll that day.

Miscellaneous information:

Students are welcome to drop in anytime I am in my office. I typically work 9-6 Monday through Friday. I have a fairly heavy administrative schedule and may not always be available on short notice, however. If you anticipate you may need a significant amount of time, please make an appointment so that I can reserve the time for you. I encourage you to use the e-classroom Discussion forum for asking questions or making comments about the class.

I have invited several guest lecturers to talk to the class. Guests are clustered toward the end of the semester, on the theory that you will need to spend more time working on your paper and less time preparing for class discussions at that time.

I have prepared a bibliography of law review articles on disability law that

is posted on the law library web page with a link from the TWEN page. That bibliography may be useful to you in selecting a topic for your paper. Another good source for ideas is perusing general news sources to discover developing issues in disability law. **Please note that you need to have selected a research topic by the fourth class meeting. I advise you to start investigating potential topics immediately.**

Class Schedule and Deadlines:

August 21.....Introduction; Video: *A Little History Worth Knowing*; Colker, 1-34; Enrichment reading: Selection from *No Pity*, pp. 12-40 (on e-reserve).

August 28.....Defining disability.....Colker, 35-75; Enrichment reading: Harriet McBryde Johnson essay, "Unspeakable Conversations" (on e-reserve).

September 4.....Defining disability, cont.....Colker, 75-106. Enrichment reading: Harriet McBryde Johnson essay, "Disability Gulag," Linked from TWEN page Web Links section.

September 11.....Employment, qualified person.....Colker, 107-124.

Deadline for submitting statement of research topic

September 18.....Employment, Reasonable accommodationColker, 124-167.

September 25..... Special Issues.....Colker, 167-188.

Deadline for submitting table of authorities

October 2.....Defenses and remedies.....Colker, 188-225.

October 9ADA Title II.....Colker, 503-557; student-led class discussion of research paper (1).

October 16.....Student-led class discussions of research papers (4 students).

Deadline for submitting detailed outline of research paper

October 23ADA Title IIIColker, 371-377, 388-409.

Guest Lecturer, 1:30-2:20: Jason Laws or Sarita Reddy, Georgia Options in Community Living, Inc., "The impact of federal and state regulation on delivery of services to people with disabilities".

October 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.....Student-led class discussions of research papers (4

students). Date and time changed due to furlough day Oct. 30. Pizza will be provided.

November 6.....Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students)

Video of Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson;

Guest Lecturer, 1:30-2:20: Andrea L. Joliffe, attorney with Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C., Athens, on “Most Integrated Setting Requirement under the ADA” (**Read *Olmstead v. L.C., Colker, 614-630.***)

Deadline for submitting minor assignment of your choice (submit electronically to entire class as well as to professor)

November 13.....Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students).

Guest Lecturers, 1:30-2:20: Pat Puckett, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia and Rebecca Ramage-Tuttle, President & CEO of disABILITY LINK, “The Role of Social Activism in Changing Law” **Read selection from *Why I Burned My Book* and Epilogue from *No Pity* (on e-reserve).**

November 20.....Student-led class discussions of research papers (4 students).

Deadline for submitting final draft of research paper is November 30, the end of the reading period before exams (submit in paper to professor).