

MASS MEDIA LAW

Professor Pielemeier

FALL 2010

INITIAL SYLLABUS (Slightly revised, August 17, 2010)

ADVANCE ASSIGNMENT (added to this syllabus on August 17): For our first class session on Wednesday, August 25, be prepared to discuss the material on pages 1-23 of the required course materials.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

The required materials for this course have been assembled by your professor. You should purchase a set from the law school Bookstore. They will be photocopied materials, punched for a three ring binder. You should consider using one or two such binders to keep the material organized.

TWEN. Signing up for this course on TWEN is mandatory. You will need your Westlaw password to do so. Go to <http://lawschool.westlaw.com>, click on TWEN and after signing in, click on Drop/Add a course. You will see this course listed and you should add it.

OFFICE HOURS AND AVAILABILITY

My office hours are posted on my office door, and I will normally be in my office at those times. If I am not, and no note is posted on my door, please try again in five to ten minutes. I am frequently in my office during other hours and, except for the hour preceding one of my classes, you are welcome to stop by during those times as well. My office telephone number is 651-523-2910. You can also reach me by E-Mail at: Jpielemeier@gw.hamline.edu

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The basic goals and objectives of this course include the development of an understanding of the legal issues, rules, and policies that have a strong impact on the "mass media," which includes entities such as radio and television stations, newspapers, producers of books and entertainment, producers of content for the World Wide Web, and others. The general topics to be covered are reflected in the table of contents below. Focus will also be on continuing to develop your proficiency in legal methodology and analysis.

Course Expectations:

HUSL Policies on attendance, lateness and preparation

The program of instruction at the School of Law is based on an active and informed exchange between instructor and student and between student and student. Regular, prepared class attendance helps develop skills essential to the competent practice of law. A student who violates the attendance policy, including the instructor's specification of class expectation described below, may lose his or her right to take the exam in the course, to receive course credit or may receive other penalties described below and in Academic Rule 108. Persistent or frequent lateness or unpreparedness may also be the basis for reduction of the grade awarded in a course. See Academic Rule 108 for further details.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

You are expected to be prepared for discussion of the materials assigned for each day. If you are called upon and are not well-prepared, this will result in a waste of your classmates' time as well as your own. Thus, if for any legitimate reason, you are not well-prepared, please let me know *before* class begins, and you will not be called upon during that class period.

As the Academic Rules and Attendance Policy provide, regular and punctual class attendance and preparation are required. As a general rule, I consider absences in excess of five 50 minute classes per semester to be excessive. Since this class will meet two days a week for 75 minutes each, I will consider absences in excess of three classes to be excessive. If the permitted number of absences is exceeded, opportunities to pursue "make-up work," as opposed to other sanctions, will not be granted absent a strong justification for the excessive absence, such as incapacitating illness or injury, death in the family, childbirth, or analogous circumstances. Such make-up work, if permitted, will ordinarily be in the form of a required short written paper.

At my discretion, lateness to class may be deemed an absence. Please be on time (subject to snow emergencies) and remain in the classroom during the entire class period unless illness requires that you leave.

Technology Policy

You may use laptop computers or other electronic devices in class to take notes and access course related materials. You should not use your laptop or electronic devices for other purposes.

In addition to the usual courtesies due to your classmates, refrain from text-messaging and email, using cell phones, pagers, or any other communication device. Refrain also from displaying wallpaper, screen savers, or other material on your computer screen that can reasonably be expected to distract your classmates.

GRADES

Subject to the next paragraph, your grade in the course will be based on a written final exam. That exam will be a three hour, closed book, self-scheduled exam.

However, grades may be adjusted upwards by one grade increment (e.g., from a C+ to a B-) for significant contributions to classroom discussion. These entail contributions beyond mere apparent good preparation. To warrant consideration for upwards adjustment, such contributions must reflect significant thought about the assigned materials. Extensive contributions are not the equivalent of significant contributions (and can on occasion be the opposite).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CASES AND MATERIALS ON MASS MEDIA LAW
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HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
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CHAPTER 1: SOME MUSINGS ON THE PROTECTION OF SPEECH..... 1
 FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION:
 (1)
 WHITNEY v. CALIFORNIA (1)
 UNITED STATES v. PLAYBOY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP (2)
 UNITED STATES v. STEVENS (3)

CHAPTER 2: PRIOR RESTRAINT AND RELATED GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS
..... 13
 A. Prior Restraint. 13
 NEAR v. MINNESOTA (13)
 NEW YORK TIMES v. UNITED STATES (24)
 CBS INC. v. DAVIS (25)
 Notes and Questions (27)
 KANSAS v. ALSTON (30)
 B. Prior Restraint vs. The Right to a Fair Trial. 37
 NEBRASKA PRESS ASS'N v. STUART (37)
 UNITED STATES v. NORIEGA (51)
 CABLE NEWS NETWORK v. NORIEGA (57)
 Notes and Questions (58)
 C. Licensing, Zoning, and Procedural Pre-requisites to the Restraint of Unprotected
 Speech. 61
 Introductory Notes (61)
 CITY OF LITTLETON v. Z.J. GIFTS D-4, L.L.C. (64)
 D. Related Governmental Restrictions. 71
 Restrictions on Newsracks..... 71
 CITY OF CINCINNATI v. DISCOVERY NETWORK, INC. (71)
 Note (77)
 Taxation..... 78
 LEATHERS v. MEDLOCK (78)
 Question: (88)
 Son of Sam Laws..... 89
 SIMON & SCHUSTER, INC. v. NEW YORK STATE CRIME VICTIMS
 BOARD (89)

CHAPTER 3: COMMON LAW DEFAMATION.	99
A. ELEMENTS OF THE PRIMA FACIE CASE.	99
1. Defamatory Statements.	99
KIMMERLE v. N.Y. EVENING JOURNAL (99)	
COX v. HATCH (101)	
WEINER v. TIME & LIFE, INC. (104)	
Note (105)	
BURGESS v. REFORMER PUBLISHING CORP. (106)	
Notes (108)	
2. Statements Reasonably Referring to the Plaintiff.	110
McCULLOUGH v. CITIES SERVICE. CO. (110)	
Notes (114)	
3. Common Law Categories and Damages.	118
CAPOBIANCO v. PULITZER PUBLISHING CO. (118)	
MICROLAN SYSTEMS, INC. v. OMNITECH CORPORATION	
SOLUTIONS, INC. (119)	
Notes (121)	
B. Defenses.	122
1. General Concepts Underlying Defamation Privileges.	122
2. Truth.	124
KONIAK v. HERITAGE NEWSPAPERS (124)	
Note (125)	
3. Fair Comment.	127
A. S. ABELL CO. v KIRBY (127)	
Note (136)	
4. Fair Report.	137
SALZANO v. NORTH JERSEY MEDIA GROUP, INC. (137)	
Notes (154)	
5. Anti-SLAPP Legislation.	155
LAFAYETTE MOREHOUSE, INC. V. CHRONICLE PUBLISHING CO.	
(155)	
Notes (162)	
6. Retraction.	162
7. Statutes of Limitation.	164
FIRTH v. THE STATE OF NEW YORK (164)	
Notes (167)	
8. Personal Jurisdiction	169
KEETON v. HUSTLER MAGAZINE, INC. (169)	
GORDY v. THE DAILY NEWS, L.P. (175)	
Notes (181)	
9. Statutory Immunity.	182
ZERAN v. AMERICA ONLINE, INC. (182)	
Note (189)	

Chapter 4: Constitutional Limitations on Defamation Liability.	191
A. New York Times.	191
NEW YORK TIMES CO. v. SULLIVAN (191)	
Notes and Questions (204)	
B. Who is a Public Official?	206
ROSENBLATT v. BAER (206)	
KASSEL v. GANNETT CO. (209)	
BRITTON v. KOEP (216)	
Notes (221)	
C. Constitutional Limitations--Actual Malice.	222
ST. AMANT v. THOMPSON (222)	
Notes: Independent Appellate Review (223)	
HERBERT v. LANDO (226)	
Notes (231)	
MASSON v. NEW YORKER MAGAZINE (233)	
Notes (249)	
D. Suits by Private Persons.	250
GERTZ v. ROBERT WELCH, INC. (250)	
Notes on state standards of fault for private plaintiffs. (261)	
The New York standard (264)	
GAETA v. NEW YORK NEWS (264)	
E. A Limitation on the Gertz-New York Times Protections?	267
DUN & BRADSTREET, INC. v. GREENMOSS BUILDERS, INC.	
(267)	
Note--another exception? (277)	
F. Public vs. Private Figures.	278
FORETICH v. CAPITAL CITIES/ABC, INC. (278)	
STREET v. NBC (296)	
DAMERON v. WASHINGTON MAGAZINE (302)	
Note: Corporations as Public Figures (307)	
G. Opinion and Libel by Implication.	308
1. Opinion.	308
MILKOVICH v. LORAIN JOURNAL (309)	
Notes (323)	
2. Libel By Implication.	325
HEALEY v. NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPERS, INC. (325)	
Note (328)	
H. The Neutral Reportage Privilege.	330
EDWARDS v. NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. (330)	
MARTIN v. WILSON PUBLISHING CO. (337)	
PACELLA v. MILFORD RADIO CORPORATION (344)	
I. Alternative Methods for Resolving Defamation Disputes.	349
N.D. Century Code Chapter 32-43. UNIFORM CORRECTION OR	
CLARIFICATION OF DEFAMATION ACT (349)	

Notes (353)

CHAPTER 5: PRIVACY.....	355
A. Public Disclosure of Private Facts.....	355
Y.G. and L.G. v. THE HOSPITAL OF ST. LOUIS and MULTI-MEDIA KSDK (355)	
THE FLORIDA STAR v. B. J. F. (368)	
B. Privacy--False Light.....	379
CANTRELL v. FOREST CITY PUBLISHING CO. (379)	
PEOPLES BANK AND TRUST COMPANY v. GLOBE (383)	
INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING (383)	
FUDGE v. PENTHOUSE INTL., LTD. (390)	
C. Appropriation (Rights of Publicity)..	397
ZACCHINI v. SCRIPPS-HOWARD BROADCASTING CO. (397)	
ROGERS v. GRIMALDI (403)	
ETW CORPORATION v. JIREH PUBLISHING, INC. (417)	
Note (432)	
D. Intrusion.	433
SANDERS v. AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY (433)	
DESNICK v. AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANIES, INC. (442)	
Note on Damages for Publication (450)	
Note on Fourth Amendment claims for media “ride-alongs.”. (450)	
Note on “Anti-Paparazzi Legislation.” (452)	
BARTNICKI v. VOPPER (455)	
CHAPTER 6: OTHER ACTIONS IN TORT AGAINST THE MEDIA.....	479
A. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress.....	479
HUSTLER MAGAZINE v. FALWELL (479)	
B. Liability for Physical Harm.	486
HYDE v. CITY OF COLUMBIA (486)	
Notes (490)	
McCOLLUM v. CBS, INC. (493)	
Note on the <u>Hit Man</u> case. (503)	
Note on Planned Parenthood (504)	
WINTER v. G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS (505)	
C. Liability for Advertising.....	510
BRAUN v. SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE, INC. (510)	
D. Economic Harm.....	522
GUTTER v. DOW JONES, INC. (522)	
CHAPTER 7: REPORTER'S PRIVILEGE.....	527
A. A First Amendment Privilege?.....	527
TEXAS ex rel. HEALEY v. McMEANS (527)	
Note. (530)	

U.S. v. CUTLER (530)	
SHOEN v. SHOEN (538)	
Notes: (546)	
B. Statutory Protections.	547
Shield Laws.	547
WEINBERGER v. MAPLEWOOD REVIEW (550)	
Note (557)	
Newsroom Searches.	557
42 U.S.C. § 2000aa (1998) (557)	
Note: Other Bases for Protecting Journalistic Information (559)	
C. Liability for Breaching a Promise of Confidentiality.	560
COHEN v. COWLES MEDIA COMPANY (560)	
Note. (568)	

CHAPTER 8: ACCESS TO GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION AND PROCEEDINGS

.	569
A. Statutory Rights of Access.	569
Introductory Note (569)	
NATIONAL ARCHIVES v. FAVISH (570)	
B. Constitutional Rights of Access.	581
Introductory Note (581)	
A Brief Side Trip--A Return to the Free Press/Fair Trial Debate (582)	
Back to the Cases (583)	
STATE v. ARCHULETA (584)	
Note. Closure in Civil Cases. (590)	
STATE ex rel BEACON-JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO. (591)	
JESSUP V. LUTHER (601)	

CHAPTER 9: GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION. 605

A. Different Standards for Different Media?	605
MIAMI HERALD PUBLISHING CO. v. TORNILLO (605)	
RED LION BROADCASTING CO. v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (613)	
F.C.C. v. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA (623)	
B. The Demise of the Fairness Doctrine.	626
SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (627)	
C. A Sampling of Current Content-Based Statutes and Regulations.	639
In the Matter of Codification of the Commission's Political Programming Policies (639)	
Note: (643)	
BECKER v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (644)	
In re Request of H. BELO CORPORATION (656)	
Note (659)	

	Some hypotheticals. (660)	
	ACTION LETTER TO DR. PAUL KLITE (661)	
	In re AMENDMENT of PART 73 REGARDING BROADCAST HOAXES (669)	
	Note (674)	
D. Regulation of Indecency in Broadcasting.		675
	F.C.C. v. PACIFICA FOUNDATION (675)	
	ACTION FOR CHILDREN'S TELEVISION v. F.C.C. (684)	
	FOX TELEVISION STATIONS v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (693)	
E. Regulation of Cable.		709
	TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. v. F.C.C. (709)	
	Notes (734)	
F. The Internet.		739
	RENO v. AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (739)	
	CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION ACT ("COPA") (753)	