Hamline University School of Law
Private Practice Practicum
(Classroom Component)
Fall 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Selected Tuesdays 4:00 - 5:50

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The practice of law is a lot like life; if you are lucky, it's one problem after another; if you are not, it is the same one over and over again.

This course represents the classroom component of the Private Practice Practicum. We will meet for five two-hour classes on dates to be scheduled.

If it is necessary to change a scheduled class as much advance notice as possible will be given to the students. Any class not commenced by 4:20 p.m. on a scheduled date will be considered cancelled and subject to rescheduling. Any student missing a class will be required to provide a make-up assignment. Two absences will be considered excessive. Computer use is allowed. There will not be any final exam. No grade is given for the classroom component but attendance is required for credit.

The objective of this class is to provide the students with practical information relating to the every-day practice of law from both a professional and business viewpoint. Students are encouraged to bring questions and issues to class for discussion or to request coverage of topics which they would find to be of interest.

Reading assignments will be made in class. Students will be asked to report on selected readings. For those truly entertaining the idea of going into solo or small office practice, I would recommend the book *How to Start and Build a Law Practice* by Jay G. Foonberg, which is available through the Law Student Division in the Section of Economics of Law Practice of the American Bar Association. For those seeking insight into the more human side of the private practice of law, I would recommend *Law: A Human Process* by The Honorable Donald P. Lay, former Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. That book is available through Thompson West Publishing Company.

Anticipated topics for the semester include:

- Defining the Private Practice of Law
- What Does the Public Think of Us and Why Does it Matter
- How to Find and Keep Clients
- Detecting and "Disposing of" the Problem Client
- Time Management, Time Keeping, and Billing
- Collecting What You Bill
- Dealing With Potential and Actual Ethical Complaints
- Trust Account Considerations