**Health Law Memorandum**
**To: First Year Students**
**From: Health Law Faculty (Professors Anderson, Burris & McClellan)**
**Subject: Careers in Health Law**

Health Law at Temple encompasses a broad range of classes on the regulation of medicine and the promotion of public health. The freedom students enjoy to design their own course packages in the second, third (and fourth) years at the law school reflects the faculty's view that there is no "core" set of courses beyond the first year requirements that are essential to success in a legal career. Indeed, it may be argued that students may best develop their skills by immersing themselves in the courses they find most interesting and challenging. That said, there are many students whose interests or career plans persuade them to concentrate on one or two subject areas. Both in employment potential and intrinsic interest, health law can be a rewarding "major."

CAREERS IN HEALTH LAW

Americans spend 14 percent of the Gross Domestic Product on health care, making it one of the nation's biggest industries. The legal profession's role in the industry is pervasive. For example, health care regulation and financing can be an important part of a business lawyer's transactional practice. The "regulation" of health care quality through the tort system can be an important part of a litigation practice, from either plaintiffs' or defendants' perspective. Crucial ethical and philosophical decisions about who should get health care (or be able to refuse it) are often turned over to lawyers to resolve.

Aside from the business of medicine, "health law" broadly understood also includes the significant government role in protecting public health by regulating dangerous activities and promoting healthy environments and behavior. Lawyers in government enforce laws governing communicable disease control, occupational safety and health, environmental pollution, and the purity of food and drug products. Public interest lawyers enforce environmental and other public health laws on behalf of affected communities.

Students may wish to concentrate on public health law or health care law, or pursue both. In either case, the study of health law will be enriched by combining health law courses with non-health courses that cover topics or teach skills the health lawyer will need. In the list below, we have categorized courses to help you make these kinds of choices.

**HEALTH CARE LAW**
The following are courses for students interested in the legal issues arising from medical care and the health care industry.

- Health Care Law: Medical Malpractice
- Health Care Law: Bioethics
- Health Care Financing
- Current Problems in Law and Medicine

- Drug Products Liability
- Food and Drug Law
- Social Legislation: Law and the Elderly
- Corporations
- Non-Tax Issues in Estate Planning - LLM course (requires Taxation and Estate and Gift Tax pre-requisite and prior approval. Focus of course is on estate planning for the elderly)
- Taxation of Exempt Organizations - LLM course (requires Taxation pre-requisite and prior approval. Focus of course is on health care organizations)

**PUBLIC HEALTH LAW**

These courses concern the use of law and promoting public health generally.

- Public Health Law
- Environmental Law
- International Health Law
- Administrative Law
- Drug Products Liability
- Food and Drug Law
- State & Local Government Law
- Law, Science and Technology

**CLINICAL COURSES**

Many courses provide students the opportunity to hone advocacy skills useful in matters involving health law.

- Civil Practice for Clients with Health Care Issues Clinical
- Elderly Law Project Clinical
- Federal Criminal Practice: Health Care Fraud Clinical
- Temple Legal Aid Office: Family Law Litigation Clinical
- Public Interest Advocacy: AIDS