

SEMINAR IN EDUCATION LAW
Spring 2009

Professor Len Biernat
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Sunday 1:15-3:15
Law 06

Class	Topic	Assignment
January 18	Overview Role of Federal Government School of Governance	pp. 62-95 pp. 98-106 pp. 108-124 pp. 139-146
January 25	Church and State MN Transportation of Private School Students MN Support for Private Schools	pp. 149-155 pp. 158-201 pp. 207-228
February 1	Desegregation MN Rule on Desegregation (Old vs. New) MN Booker Case (1971) <i>Seattle School Case</i> , 127 S.Ct 2738 (2007)	pp. 889-936
February 8	School Attendance Student Rights: Speech and Privacy MN Compulsory Attendance MN Home School Law MN Charter School Law MN Open Enrollment MN Private School Students MN Public School Athletics	pp. 248-278, 287-294 pp. 364-397
February 15	Student Rights: Search and Seizure MN Fair Dismissal Act MN Student Harassment MN Student Records	pp. 397-480
February 22	Rights of Students with Disabilities MN Special Ed Hearings MN Special Ed Funding	pp. 484-545
March 1	Rights of Teachers MN Tenure Act MN Teacher Discipline	pp. 718-777
	Education Finance MN Skeen Case	pp. 947-952
April 5, 19, 26, and May 3	Class Presentations	

Course Objectives

The course provides an in-depth discussion of several current topics in education law. The course is set to be “top-heavy” by having large reading assignments during the first eight weeks in order to provide students with a foundation on the topics so that students will discover areas of interests in which to do research. Students will then have three weeks in which to complete a first draft of the paper. Casebook: Alexander and Alexander, American Public School Law, 6th, Thomson/West.

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance and participation. Students should not miss any classes unless having an emergency.
2. One short research project and presentation on state law.
3. Seminar Paper, 20-25 pages. (First draft due on April 5; Final draft on April 26).
4. Class Report on Seminar paper.

Final Grade

Final grade will be based on the quality of work in all four areas, with the bulk of the grade based on the Final Draft of the seminar paper.

Computer Policy

This is a small class that will engage in intense class discussion. Computers should only be used for taking notes.