

2016

# Shepard Broad College of Law The Global Law Leadership Initiative 2016

Nova Southeastern University

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# The Global Law Leadership Initiative

## The Initiative

The Global Law Leadership Initiative helps students develop the skills needed to successfully practice law in the 21st century through course work, workshops, and live client experiences integrated together through a specialized law school curriculum. By incorporating hands-on experiences into the traditional academic setting, students gain not only a solid foundation of legal doctrine, theory, and analysis, but also the technological, financial, and global economic competencies that are essential to the modern practice of law. The mastery of these skills, which include finance, business, management, leadership, technology, and client engagement are essential to ensuring NSU Law graduates can navigate the complex business of delivering legal services and achieving professional success.

## Immersive Summer Session: Leadership and Finance

The initiative begins with a unique, three-course immersive summer program which places heavy emphasis on simulation-based coursework, and is geared toward students in the incoming class. Through this summer program, students gain an appreciation of the commercial environment of legal practice, and better understand the roles of business, legal technology, and lawyers in providing high-caliber services to clients, whether in transactional or civil litigation settings. The elective curriculum incorporates a global perspective and enhances first generation law students' success in navigating the legal marketplace, while helping to build a bridge between the knowledge of law and the practical understanding of business practice.

### Summer Courses:

#### **Business Operations for Lawyers (3 credits)**

In every area of legal practice, one or more of the parties in a transaction or dispute are business enterprises operating using a common set of disciplines and tools to share information, evaluate risk, and make financially-based decisions. This course provides law students with an introduction to these primary tools of quantitative analysis and research relied upon daily in the for-profit business, nonprofit, and public sectors. Lawyers who understand these tools can better understand the needs of their clients, provide additional strategies for structuring transactions and resolving disputes, and adding discipline to the operations of lawyers' own law firms. Through simulations, exercises and discussions, students will explore how best to apply these tools to the practice of law.

#### **Strategic Business Planning for Lawyers (3 credits)**

Whatever the area of legal practice, lawyers working in private practice are called upon to operate sophisticated business enterprises to facilitate client development, address competitive forces, create a healthy, professional working environment, and manage the constant change at the heart of modern legal practice. As the *Best Practices of Legal Education* by Roy Stuckey explains, every lawyer is expected to "demonstrate an appreciation of the commercial environment of legal practice, including the market for legal services."

To achieve these ends, students are required to contextualize their understanding of corporate law, contract law and other legal topics related to business organizations primarily from the perspective of the organization's leadership. Students will develop skills to bring a business leaders' perspective to legal problem-solving and to integrate business ethics with legal ethics regarding the evaluation of potential solutions to organizational challenges.

### **Law Practice Business and Technology Workshop (2 credits)**

The operations of successful private practice require an understanding of the primary tools used to efficiently deliver legal services and meet the ethical and professional obligations involved in providing competent representation. New lawyers must understand the law firm business and operations if they are to succeed in the profession. Ideally, this course complements a course on Law Practice Management. This course provides hands-on experience for students on a number of key operational aspects of the practice of law, including the business foundation of successful law firm management; security and confidentiality of client information; marketing, public relations, advertising and social media; duties of technological competence under ABA "Ethics 20/20" amendments to the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility; predictive coding and other eDiscovery issues; client intake and case management; and issues related to the scope and composition of representation, including the unauthorized practice of law and unbundled legal services.

### **Continuing Curriculum for the Global Law Leadership Initiative**

Following their first year, students select among courses in business, intellectual property and technology law, and international law to prepare them for an entrepreneurial, global practice in either transactional or civil practice. To complete the program, students are required to complete an elective course in each of the three areas of business, intellectual property, and international law. Students are strongly encouraged to complete their participation with a full-time field placement (externship) in a related practice area by enrolling in the Civil Field Placement Clinic.

#### **Business Courses:**

#### **Business Entities (4 credits) LAW 0516**

This course introduces the law of business organizations including agency, partnership, limited liability companies, and corporations. Topics include choice of entity, formation and structure of the entity, power and fiduciary responsibility of management, rights and liabilities of shareholders, corporate capital structure and finance, and shareholders' derivative litigation. Federal securities law is introduced. This is a required second year course for full-time students and a required third year course for part-time students.

#### **International Business Transactions (3 credits) LAW 0837**

This course surveys legal issues involved in international commercial transactions. Topics include letters of credit, bills of lading, COGSA, customs, GATT, export regulation, and remedies for unfair international trade practices. The online course (LAW 4837) is subject to the limitations applied to distance learning courses, which are included in the Code of Academic Regulations. (This course meets the program requirement as a business course or international course.)

#### **Business Planning Workshop (3 credits) LAW 0807**

This simulation course examines business problems, including choice of business entities; formation of corporations; business agreements, such as shareholders' agreements for closely-held corporations; and use of qualified deferred compensation agreements. The course also covers recapitalizations, mergers, and other reorganizations and divisions. Problems are analyzed using principles of corporate or partnership law and federal tax law.

### **International Courses:**

#### **International Law (3 credits) LAW 0840**

This course introduces the international legal system and the way in which international law and international legal institutions shape relations between states. Topics include the legal relationship between nations, the nature and sources of international law, international organizations, the International Court of Justice, and current international law issues.

#### **International Sales & Arbitration (3 credits) LAW 0833**

This course focuses on a number of selected issues particularly relevant in international sales contracts such as contracts formation, breach, remedies, damages, force majeure and hardship, exemption clauses, etc. These issues will be examined under the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), to some extent the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts). The Arbitration component will introduce students to international commercial arbitration by examining the legal basis for international commercial arbitration, emphasizing the Federal Arbitration Act, the UN Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards and the UNCITRAL Model Law and Rules, which form the basis for the rules used by most international arbitration tribunals.

### **Intellectual Property and Technology Law Courses**

#### **Intellectual Property Survey (3 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, and publicity rights, with an emphasis on how these five discrete fields interact. The course materials are inherently comparative in nature, allowing students to see how very different legal doctrine can be used separately or in combination to develop problem solving approach, solve client problems, and appreciate how these different regimes create economic, ethical and sociological structures.

#### **Information Privacy Law (3 credits)**

Lawyers receive information in the form of patents, copyrights, trademarks, databases, photographs, and information stored in GPS trackers, search engines, cell phones, and electronic health records. This course examines current U.S. practice regarding the right of an individual to control one's personal information in transactional settings such as health care, financial services, e-commerce and social media. The course will explore the history of U.S. privacy, the current development of privacy regulation and identify the next steps necessary for expansion of U.S. policy in this area.

#### **Drafting & Negotiating Intellectual Property Licenses (2 credits)**

Lawyers receive information in the form of patents, copyrights, trademarks, databases, photographs, and information stored in GPS trackers, search engines, cell phones, and electronic health records. This course

examines current U.S. practice regarding the right of an individual to control one's personal information in transactional settings such as health care, financial services, e-commerce and social media. The course will explore the history of U.S. privacy, the current development of privacy regulation and identify the next steps necessary for expansion of U.S. policy in this area.

**Other recommended courses**

- Business Planning Workshop
- Civil Field Placement Clinic
- e-Discovery (3 credits)
- Income Tax (3 credits) LAW 0701
- International Protection of Human Rights (3 credits) LAW 0722
- International Regulation of Trade (2 credits) LAW 0514
- Law Practice Management (2 credits) or Law Practice Technology (3 credits)
- UCC: Sales (2 credits) LAW 0688
- UCC: Sales and Secured Financing (4 credits) LAW 4675
- UCC: Secured Transactions (2 credits) LAW 0687