Seminar: Emerging Issues in Employment Discrimination Law, Professor Oswalt

The best way of understanding how the law regulates discrimination in the workplace is to explore where the regime falls short. The traditional Civil Right Act framework is best suited to catch overt or explicit favoritism, but if in the majority of modern cases discrimination does not actually operate that way, what good is the statute? This is the core challenge of discrimination law today. It is also the organizing principle for the seminar, where we will consider the question from a variety of angles, including the realities of implicit bias, privilege, covering, code-switching, and personal and corporate branding.

Seminar: Non-Profit Organizations, Professor Tokic

This seminar explores the laws associated with non-profit organizations and charitable giving, with a particular emphasis on tax-related issues. Course topics include state law issues related to the formation of nonprofit organizations, nonprofit governance, state attorney general oversight, and regulation of fundraising. We will then turn to the federal tax law governing nonprofit organizations, including tax exempt status and the policy questions surrounding that issue, classification of charities as private foundations or public charities, deductibility of contributions, challenges and opportunities for charitable organizations to partner with for profit entities and otherwise engage in commercial activities, limits on compensation paid to certain executives, and the ability of nonprofit organizations to engage in advocacy and otherwise influence the political processes. The course grade will be based on a final paper meeting the requirements for the upper-level writing requirement, as outlined in the student handbook. It is highly recommended that students take Federal Income Tax and/or Corporations prior to or during the same semester as this course.

Seminar: Advanced Criminal Law, Professor McConkie

This seminar has two goals: (1) to study selected topics in the criminal law in depth, and (2) to improve your legal writing. Regarding the first goal, we will study selected policy and substantive topics. Policy topics may include mass incarceration, the war on drugs, and race in the criminal justice system. We will read Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow* and William Stuntz’s *The Collapse of American Criminal Justice*. Substantive topics may include Illinois defenses to crimes, and substantive crimes in Illinois like fraud and domestic violence. The course will be of particular interest to students who want to be criminal defense attorneys or prosecutors. We will approach all topics with an eye toward helping you to understand how the criminal justice system works and how to be an effective advocate. Regarding the second goal,
this course will enable you to satisfy the College of Law’s substantial writing requirement. Even more importantly, you will hone critical writing skills: formulating a precise thesis, outlining your argument, re-writing, wordsmithing, arguing objectively yet persuasively, performing legal research, and giving due credit to those whose work you have used. Your final product can either be a law review article, a policy analysis or proposed legislation that you will send to a rulemaking body or legislature, or an appellate brief worthy of the Illinois Supreme Court regarding an important criminal law issue.