Joshu says “Wash your bowls”

Once a monk made a request of Joshu. “I have just entered the monastery,” he said. “Please give me instructions, Master.” “Have you had your breakfast?” “Yes, I have,” replied the monk. “Then,” said Joshu, “wash your bowls.”

The Gateless Gate

Statement of Educational Values and Principles

Learning should be fun and interesting, although it is also often challenging, requires hard work and can be difficult at times. No learning takes place without the full participation of the students. You are co-producers of your own education and, therefore, co-responsible for the results. You are invited to actively engage in that process. You may also find that your active participation is your best means of self-defense. I can speak quickly at times. The best way to slow me down is to intervene with your own comments and questions, even if those questions are simply “could you repeat that” or “I do not understand.”

The key to creating any successful educational environment is mutual respect. The UM Law School Educational Policy (March 1997) provides some useful ground rules: “All members of the community must be able to participate fully in the life of the Law School. Barriers to full participation can take many forms. Sometimes they fall along lines of race, gender, sexual orientation and religion. Sometimes they reflect intolerance of certain political beliefs or social attitudes. In order to best educate our students, the Law School must be a place for full and frank discussion of difficult issues. Law School classrooms are places where ideas are supposed to be expressed and to be challenged, and policy issues are supposed to be appreciated for their complexity. Discussions of this sort may be painful and uncomfortable. For that reason, it is important to ensure that mutual respect and attentiveness to diverse perspectives are always a part of the exchange of ideas.”

General Information


Office and Office Hours: My Office is 3225. My telephone number is 577-0830. My e-mail address is phammer@wayne.edu. Office hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from------------ by appointment. I am happy to meet with you at any time for class-related questions.

Attendance and Participation: Class attendance and participation is expected. Excessive absences or repeated cases of unpreparedness may result in grade reduction. You cannot be co-producers of your education if you are not actively engaged in the process.
Examination: The examination will be a three hour, open book, in-class essay test. As a default value, exams should be written in full, complete sentences. Deviations from that rule (abbreviations, shorthand phrases, outline form) are made at the exam-taker's assumed risk. What cannot be read and understood will not be graded. No one will be penalized for poor penmanship.

Reading Guide

The following schedule is tentative. Reading assignments will be announced in class on a weekly basis. Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the Knapp, Crystal & Prince Casebook. Students are expected, as a matter of reflex, to refer to and read the portions of Knapp, Crystal & Prince, Rules of Contract Law that are relevant to the Casebook assignment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS: ix-xx

PREFACE: xxi-xxiv

CHAPTER ONE:
An Introduction to the Study of Contract Law:
1-24

CHAPTER TWO:
Enforcing Promises: Bases of Legal Obligation:
25-80; 85-93; 100-60

CHAPTER THREE:
Reaching Agreement: The Process of Contract Formation:
161-269

CHAPTER FOUR:
The Statute of Frauds:
295-326; 346-47

CHAPTER FIVE:
The Meaning of the Agreement: Principles of Interpretation and the Parol Evidence Rule:
349-429

CHAPTER SIX:
Supplementing the Agreement: Implied Terms, the Obligation of Good Faith, and Warranties:
431-505