

APPENDIX A2—THE LEGAL REASONING, RESEARCH, AND WRITING PROGRAM

A-200 The Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing Program

The curriculum includes a mandatory Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing Program (LRRW Program) composed of three parts: Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing; Legal Writing II; and Legal Writing III.

A-201 Legal Reasoning, Research, & Writing

The first part of the LRRW Program is Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing (LRRW), a four-credit, year-long, first-year course. LRRW teaches the fundamentals of legal reasoning including legal analysis, factual analysis, rule application, analogical reasoning, and synthesis; the basic sources and methods of legal research; and some basic forms of legal writing including objective memoranda of law, client opinion letters, and trial court motion practice briefs. In addition, it includes a strong dose of professionalism and introduces other skills including interviewing, negotiating, and document drafting.

A-202 Legal Writing II

The second part of the LRRW Program is Legal Writing II (LWII), a required two-credit, semester-long course which must be taken either in the fall or spring of the student's second year unless the student failed LRRW, in which case the student must take LW II in the year immediately following successful completion of LRRW. LW II is designed to reinforce and deepen the students' knowledge of and ability to perform factual analysis, legal analysis, legal reasoning, legal research, and writing. The primary project is writing and rewriting an appellate brief on relatively difficult legal issues.

A-203 Legal Writing III

- (A) Legal Writing III (LWIII) is not a particular course; instead, it is a significant scholarly writing requirement which can be met in a number of ways. To satisfy the LW III requirement, each student is required to complete, under the supervision of a full-time faculty member (not an adjunct or other instructor who is not a faculty member employed under a full-time faculty contract), (1) in-depth research in a specialized area, resulting in (2) a written product in which the issues involved are fully analyzed and supportable conclusions articulated. Typically, the LWIII requirement is satisfied in the student's third year.
- (B) To satisfy the LWIII requirement, the written product must meet the following conditions:
 - (1) The written product must be completed under the supervision of a full-time member of the faculty who has agreed to assist the student;

- (2) A minimum grade of 75 must be earned on the written product;
 - (3) The written product must use proper legal citation form, give proper attribution to the work of others, and be the equivalent of no less than twenty-five (25) double-spaced, typewritten pages with customary margins (or 7500 words); and
 - (4) Each student is required to submit an outline or outline substitute (such as a thesis statement and annotated bibliography) and at least one draft of the written product to the supervising faculty member prior to submission of the completed written product.
- (C) The written product requirement may be satisfied by a writing which meets the foregoing requirements prepared (a) in a seminar course; (b) in connection with meeting the requirements of membership on the *Howard Law Journal*; or (c) in an independent study course.
- (D) Subject to the rules governing incompletes, the completed written product is to be submitted to the supervising faculty member at the time set by the faculty member, but in no event shall it be submitted later than the last day of scheduled third-year classes for the final semester of the Student's final year. Students cannot change the supervising faculty member without the permission of the original supervising faculty member.
- (E) All Students must complete a legal-writing-paper disclosure form which identifies the course, Independent Study, or Journal in which they either have completed or intend to complete this requirement. The student must submit the form to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs no later than two months prior to graduation. The form must be signed by the faculty member who supervised, who is supervising, or who has agreed to supervise and grade the student's written product.
- (F) No credits toward meeting the graduation credit requirement are given for a LWIII writing.