

PROFESSOR Ruth Piller
LAWYERING SKILLS & STRATEGIES
 SPRING 2015 (final)

STUDENT SYLLABUS

	Lecture Topic	Preparation & Assignments
Week 1A Jan. 20	Litigation Building Blocks: Introduction to Advocacy	Read Packet Tabs 1 & 2 First Day Assignment Due
Week 1B Jan. 23	Litigation Building Blocks: Signals and Parentheticals Texas Citation	Read ICW Workbook 91 – 95, 99 – 102, and Tab 3; skim <i>Greenbook</i> 6 – 28; 40 – 58, paying particular attention to Practice Tips Bring Bluebook and Greenbook to class
Week 2A Jan. 27	Litigation Strategies: Oral and Written Legal Persuasion	Read Selections from Packet Tab 4 Research Recap 2 Due
Week 2B Jan. 30	The Anatomy of Civil Litigation: Pleadings and Discovery	Read Packet Tab 5 Texas Citation Exercise Due
Week 3A Feb. 3 Krost Hall (double class 1 – 2:40p)	Litigation Strategies: Guest Lecturer Richard Josephson, Baker Botts LLP has litigated securities, business, drug products liability, antitrust, consumer class actions, attorney general investigations, legal malpractice defense, mass and toxic tort and other complex commercial disputes for more than 40 years. He has tried over 80 cases, most of them jury trials, while defending clients in more than 35 states. He has also tried numerous matters before the American Arbitration Association, National Association of Securities Dealers, and other arbitration tribunals.	Research Recap 3 Due
Week 3B Feb. 6	Civil Litigation: Pretrial Motion and Argument	Read Clary 185-191, Packet Tab 7. For sample trial briefs, see Packet Tab 6 and Clary 198 – 235.
Week 4A Feb. 10	Litigation Strategies: Using Point Headings for Persuasion	Read Packet Tab 8, pp. 179-188
Week 4B Feb. 13	Litigation Strategies: Legal Argument, Counter Argument and Rebuttal	ICW Exercise 11 due
Week 5A Feb. 17	Litigation Strategies: Argument – continued	
<i>Optional Class</i> <i>Feb. 18</i> <i>12:00-1:00</i> <i>Krost Hall</i>	<i>Advocates Oral Argument Demonstration</i> <i>John Black Competition Learning Lunch</i> <i>Attend if you want to participate in John Black Moot Court Competition</i>	<i>Or you can attend Professor Simpson's presentation: "How to Do an Effective Oral Argument: Moot Court and Real Life"</i> <i>Saturday, February 21, 2015, 10a – 12p</i> <i>Location to be announced</i>
Week 5B Feb. 20	Litigation Building Blocks: Legislative History Appellate Practice: Drafting a Persuasive Statement of Facts	Read ICW Workbook 108 – 114 Read excerpts from Packet Tab 9

Week 6A Feb. 24	Appellate Practice: Introduction to Appellate Practice Relationship between trial and appeal Overview of a brief	Skim Packet Tab 10 Bring Supplemental Packet to Class MSJ Assignment due in LSS Offices at 8:50 a.m. (15% of your grade)
Week 6B Feb. 27	Appellate Practice: Standard of Review Issues Presented	Read Packet Tabs 11 & 12 Read Packet Tab 8, pp. 175 – 179
Week 7A March 3 (double class 1 – 2:40p)	Appellate Practice: Translating trial argument to appellate argument	Research Recap 4 Due
Week 7B March 6	Appellate Practice: Statement of the Case and Conclusion How do the Summary of the Argument, thesis paragraph, and overall Conclusion differ?	Pick up Brief Assignment in LSS Offices
Week 8A March 10 (double class 1 – 2:40p) Krost Hall	Appellate Practice: Guest Lecturer: The Honorable Laura Higley was elected as Justice of the First Court of Appeals, Houston, Texas, in November 2002. Justice Higley worked at Baker Botts L.L.P. from 1990 until 2002. She practiced in the areas of pension law, health care law and executive compensation.	
Week 8B March 13	NO CLASS – Enjoy Spring Break!	
Week 9A & 9B	SPRING BREAK: March 16 – 20	
Week 10A March 24	Skills and Strategies Redux	Brief Argument Outline due in class Bring <i>Bluebook</i> and <i>Greenbook</i> to class
Week 10B March 27	Lawyering Skills & Strategies Final Exam (10% of final grade)	
Week 11A March 31	Transactional Practice: Introduction to legal drafting Evaluating forms	Read Packet Tab 13
Week 11B April 3	Transactional Practice: Clear and unambiguous drafting Words that create obligations	Special guest speakers
Week 12A and 12 B April 6 - 10	Appellate Brief: Individual Student Conferences	
Monday, April 13		Appellate Brief Assignment due in LSS offices at 8:50 a.m. (60% of final grade)
Week 13A April 14 (double class 1 – 2:40p)	Transactional Practice: Guest Lecturer Doug Yeager is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and head of Locke Lord's Real Estate and Finance practice. Mr. Yeager represents financial institutions, owners, tenants and developers in the acquisition, development, financing, leasing and disposition of commercial real estate, and also has significant experience in loan workouts, restructurings and foreclosures.	
Week 13B April 17	Transactional Practice: Settling a Claim Through Mediation	
Week 14A April 21	Transactional Practice: Putting the Contract Together	
Week 14B April 24	Legal Building Blocks: Introduction to Scholarly Writing	Read Packet Tab 14 Skim Packet Tabs 15 & 16
Monday, April 27		Final Contract Assignment due in LSS offices at 8:50 a.m. (15% of final grade)

