

Texas Consumer Law WRC
Course 7303 Section 20513
Syllabus Spring 2026
Professor Ryan Marquez
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Office 343G
Phone 713.743.2169
Class: MW 9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Face to Face

Course Description

This course is meant to provide an introduction to Texas Consumer Law including federal consumer law. While doing so, this writing course will teach skills necessary for a practicing lawyer. It will provide students a way to learn to practice using various resources available such as CLE articles, statutes, case law, practice guides, local rules, and judges rules to complete the assignments.

Attendance

Regular course attendance is expected. The Law Center expects students to attend at least 80% of the scheduled classes. Attendance will be taken by submission of your timesheet which note whether you attended the class.

Assessment

The final grade for the course is determined by assessing your work in the following areas:

- The drafting of a demand letter (15%)
- The drafting of a petition, complaint, or answer (20%)
- The drafting of a motion (10%)
- The drafting of a part of an appellate brief (30%)
- The drafting or editing of part of a commercial lease (15%)
- Small presentation or oral argument (5% based on a good faith effort).
- Class participation (5%) including Timesheets

Class participation will be assessed based on active participation in the classes.

Learning Outcomes

- Improvement in legal research and writing skills
- Knowledge of basic attorney skills
- Knowledge of the substantive areas of consumer law
- Knowledge of practicing a new subject area like a lawyer
- Comfort with public speaking

Grading

This is an ordinary University of Houston Law Center course. Accordingly, Law Center policy requires the final grade average for the course be 3.20 – 3.40 on a 4.0 scale or whatever scale in effect at the time of enrollment.

Office Hours

Office Hours: Mondays 10:30a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Feel free to stop by my office anytime, e-mail me, or to set an appointment in order to discuss the class material or anything else of interest to you.

Required Text

There is no required text for the Course. Class materials will be provided or available on Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, or another free resource already available to law students.

Class Assignments and Class Subjects

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Assignment search for and bring a current event/new article touching on consumer law to discuss.

Also, be prepared to discuss what concerns you have about becoming an attorney, and what skills you believe are needed to become an attorney

Monday, January 26, 2026

Chapters 1-4 of the Texas DTPA Form & Practice Guide

Chapters 1-2 of the Texas Pretrial Practice

Small Assignment

Assignment 1 Demand/Notice Letter assigned

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Review Chapter 17 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code

Read Chapter 9 of the Lawyer's Guide to the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act

Read "Remembering the DTPA" by Mark Steiner

Monday, February 2, 2026

Review Chapter 3 of the Texas DTPA Forms and Practice

Read Chapter 22 and Review Appendix E of Legal Reasoning and Legal Writing

Read Article How to Write a Demand Letter by James Willis

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Review Chapter 9.09 of the Lawyer's Guide to the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act

Read Attorney's Fees for Lawyers in Collection and Commercial Cases by Cersonsky

Read 7 Deadly Sins of Recovering Attorney's Fees by White

Monday, February 9, 2026

Read Dorsaneos, Texas Litigation Guide Chapter 11

Review Texas Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 45-82

Assignment 1 Demand/Notice Letter draft due

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

How to Edit – reading to be assigned

Assignment 2 Petition assigned

Monday, February 16, 2026

Read O'Connor's Texas Rules Civil Trials Ch. 3-B to 3-I (in Canvas) PDF pg nos. 1-8, 19-22, 28-32, 36-49, 52-55, 76-89, 91-102, 113-119, 137-141, 155-166

Review the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure Rules 21, 21a, 86-91a, 120a-121

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Ultimate Motions Practice Course: How to Make This Vital Area of Your Practice More Effective:

Read Motions to Abate and Motion to Stay: Plea to the Jurisdiction, Motion on Special Appearance, John Kazen PDF pg 43-65

Read Motion to Transfer a Venue, Stephen Crain, PDF pg 81-91

Finish Watching What is Effective Motions Practice from the CLE -TBD

Assignment 1 Demand/Notice Letter final draft due

Assignment 3 Motion(s) assigned

Monday February 23, 2026

Read Landlord/Tenant Issues: Tenant Perspective by G. Roland Love and Lindsey C. Bragg. When reading the article check the statutes associated and cited and determine if there is anything outdated.

Assignment 2 Petition draft due

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

READ Landlord/Tenant Issues: Landlord Perspective by R. David Fritsche-Has anything changed since 2010.

Monday, March 2, 2026

Class Activity – Reading TBD

Assignment 2 Petition final draft due

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Read Barton – Basic Types of Leases pg 46-67

Read Newsom – Eight Things in a Lease that Matter pg 68-89

Read Texas Property Code Chapter 93

Assignment 3 Motion(s) draft due

Assignment 4 Lease assigned

Monday, March 9, 2026

Continue from previous day

Choose topic for assignment six

Assignment 6 Work Presentation assigned

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Drafting Appellate Briefs – TBD

Monday, March 16, 2026

Spring Break

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Spring Break

Monday, March 23, 2026

Drafting Appellate Briefs – TBD

Assignment 3 Motion(s) final draft due

Assignment 5 Appellate Brief assigned

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Read Chapter 4 of the Texas Residential Construction Law Manual

Assignment 4 Lease draft due

Monday, March 30, 2026

Read Gabriel Rincon's Creation and Enforcement of Liens

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Court Observation

Assignment 4 Lease final draft

Monday, April 6, 2026

Guest Speaker TBD

Assignment 5 Appellate Brief outline due

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Guest Speaker TBD

Monday, April 13, 2026

(Student Presentation Practice Day)

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Student Presentations for Assignment 6 Work Presentation

Assignment 5 Appellate Brief draft due

Monday, April 20, 2026

Student Presentations for Assignment 6 Work Presentation

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Student Presentations for Assignment 6 Work Presentation

Monday, April 27, 2026

Student Presentations for Assignment 6 Work Presentation

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Class Review

Assignment 5 Appellate Brief final draft due

Accommodation of Disabilities

The University of Houston Law Center strives to assure equal access and full participation by people with disabilities. If you require services because of a disability, you may notify Academic Records Coordinator in the Office of Student Services, in person in room Suite 240. This voluntary self-identification allows the University to prepare any necessary and appropriate support services to facilitate your learning.

Any requests for exam accommodations should be directed to Samantha Ary at sary@central.uh.edu or 713-743-7466 and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and process the request.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to

specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org

University Sexual Misconduct Policy

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy reach to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not a confidential resource.

COVID-19 Information

Students are encouraged to visit the University's COVID-19 website for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, testing, vaccine information, and post-exposure guidance. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates. <https://www.uh.edu/covid-19/information-for/students/>.

Syllabus Change

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through your UH email account.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. Our Security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety please call [713-743-3333](tel:713-743-3333). Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called Cougar Ride that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.

Resources for Online Learning:

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our Power-On website (<https://uh.edu/power-on/learning/>). Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, Blackboard, and Canvas; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

UH Email:

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit University Information Technology (UIT) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.