TORTS  
COURSE INFORMATION  
Professor Katherine Goldwasser, Fall 2006  

Course Materials. The book is Vetri, Levine, Vogel, Finley, TORT LAW AND PRACTICE, revised 3d ed. LexisNexis 2006. Although not required, I would encourage you to read both the Introduction and the Bookguide (pp.xxxvii-xlvi) so that you have some idea of what to expect from the book and what the authors are trying to accomplish. There are also three important handouts available now: one with basic course information (this handout), another with a list of readings to be assigned (“READINGS”—see attached) and a third with guidelines for briefing a case (“CASE-BRIEFING”—also attached). Packets containing these handouts are available in the course mailbox in Room 301 and copies are also posted on the course website. At least one more list of readings will be distributed during the semester, and additional handouts may be distributed from time to time as well.

Assignments. Readings for the first part of the course are listed in the attached “READINGS” handout in the order in which they will be assigned. A list of the remaining readings will be distributed later in the semester. Specific class-by-class assignments will be posted on the course website each Thursday for the following week.

Preparing for Class. Obviously, you all are highly seasoned and very highly accomplished preparers for class. Nonetheless, given that teachers’ expectations with respect to class preparation can vary, I think it is important that I share mine with you. So here they are, presented in the form of a suggested step-by-step approach:

Step 1. Read the assigned pages carefully and look up any and all unfamiliar words or phrases.

Step 2. For each court opinion included within the assignment, prepare a brief in accordance with the guidelines given in the attached “CASE-BRIEFING” handout.

Step 3. Take note of, think about, and be prepared to discuss your answer(s) to, any and all questions posed in connection with the assigned pages, including both any “Questions to Ponder” that I assign to you and any in the book itself.

Step 4. If we did not cover all of the assigned materials on a given day, in addition to going through the above steps with any new materials, carefully review the old materials (i.e., the previously assigned but not yet covered materials) so that you are fully prepared to discuss them in class the next day.

Contacting Me. Please feel free to stop by my office (Room 567) any Tuesday-Friday afternoon. While I cannot guarantee that I will always be in and able to talk the moment you arrive (and please don’t take it personally if it turns out I can’t meet with you right then), I will generally be available during those times. I am also reachable via email (goldwask@wulaw.wustl.edu) or by phone (935-8557) except when I am in or preparing for class. This semester my “in-or-preparing-for-class” times, when I hope not to be disturbed, are Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:00 AM (when I will be preparing for and then teaching Torts) and Monday 4:00-6:00 PM (when I will be preparing for and then teaching my Trial Practice class). If you prefer, I also am happy to schedule an appointment.