

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE WHARTON SCHOOL
LEGAL STUDIES AND BUSINESS ETHICS DEPARTMENT

LGST 813 Course Syllabus
Spring 2014
LEGAL AND TRANSACTIONAL ASPECTS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Course Description: Legal and Transactional Aspects of Entrepreneurship is a practical and intensive course that examines the critical legal and transactional issues confronting start-up and emerging growth companies. The course provides perspective on how to use the law strategically to manage risk, deploy resources and maximize shareholder value. Topics include the enforceability of confidentiality, non-competition and other restrictive covenants in employment agreements, choice of business form including the legal, financial and tax advantages and disadvantages of general partnerships, limited partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies, tax and securities law aspects of raising capital, structuring venture capital and private equity transactions, mergers, acquisitions and other entrepreneurial deal structures, employment law, and intellectual property law including trade secrets, copyrights, patents and trademarks.

Course Materials:

Required Materials: Readings available on course Canvas.

Recommended Materials: *Start-up & Emerging Companies: Planning, Financing, and Operating the Successful Business* by G. Smith (Law Journal Seminars Press), and *The Entrepreneur's Guide to Business Law* by Bagley and Dauchy (West) available at the Bookstore.

A Note on the Course: This course is designed to be *practical* and *intensive*. Extensive readings are the core of the course. Please do not register for the course unless you intend to be prepared for and actively involved (voluntarily or involuntarily) in each class.

Grading Policy: There will be one mid-term examination, and one final examination. Each examination will be equally weighted and each will be a closed-book, closed-note examination.

TOPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Class 1 Background on the U.S. Legal System
 Lawyers, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Readings: Background on the U.S. Legal System Materials, and Lawyers and Litigation Materials.

Class 2 Duties to Your Former Employer: Common Law Duties and Restrictive Covenants

Readings: Duties to Your Former Employer Materials.

- Class 3** **Choice of Business Form I: Sole Proprietorships, General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships**
- Readings: Sole Proprietorship, General Partnership, and Limited Partnership Materials.
 Smith Text, Chapter 1.
- Class 4** **Choice of Business Form II: Corporations and Limited Liability Companies**
- Readings: Corporations and Limited Liability Company Materials.
 Smith Text, Chapter 2, §2.01-2.07.
- Class 5** **Tax Considerations for Start-ups: IRC Section 351- Tax-Free Organization, IRC Section 83 - The Service Provider Problem, and IRC Section 385 - The Reclassification of Debt as Equity**
- Readings: Taxation I and II Materials.
 Smith Text, Chapter 2, §2.08; Chapter 12.
- Class 6** **MID-TERM EXAMINATION (NO EXCEPTIONS) – DATE TO BE DETERMINED**
- Class 7** **Creditors' Rights and Duties
Federal and State Securities Law**
- Readings: Creditors' Rights Materials and Securities Law Materials.
 Smith Text Chapter 4
- Class 8** **Venture Capital and Private Equity Financing Structures**
- Readings: Securities Law Materials, and Venture Capital and Private Equity Materials.
 Smith Text Chapter 4 and Chapter 8.
- Class 9** **Mergers, Acquisitions and Entrepreneurial Deal Structures**
- Readings: Mergers and Acquisitions Materials.
- Class 10** **Employment Law I: Independent Contractors v. Employees, and “At Will” v. Contract Employment**
- Readings: Employment Law Materials.
- Class 11** **Employment Law II: Wrongful Termination and Discrimination**
- Readings: Employment Law Materials.

Class 12 Intellectual Property Law

Readings: Patents and Trade Secrets, and Copyrights and Trademark Materials.
Smith Text, Chapter 15.

**FINAL EXAMINATION: TIME AND LOCATION DETERMINED BY REGISTRAR.
(NO EXCEPTIONS)**