Course Syllabus

I. Instructor:
Attorney Justin H. Dion
Telephone: (413) 244-4175

II. Office Hours:
The instructor is available at the following telephone numbers and email address:

  Telephone: (413) 244-4175 (cell)
  jdion@baypath.edu

III. Course Description:
The organization of the course is transactional: it first examines problems in the formation of consumer transactions, then moves to the substance of the deal and concludes with remedies. At each stage of the transaction, the first inquiry is whether any intervention on behalf of consumers is warranted. The second inquiry is concerned with the extent to which intervention impacts upon the freedom of contract and the rights of the parties concerned, including the cost of such intervention.

IV. Semester Hours Credit and Schedule:
Credits - Three

Meeting Times -

  T 8:00 PM - 9:15 PM
  R 8:00 PM - 9:15 PM

  Monday, August 22 - Classes Begin
  Monday, September 5 - Labor Day - No Classes
  Wednesday, September 7 - Last Day to Add/Drop Courses
  Friday, September 9 - Last Day for Applying for Degrees to be awarded in October
  Monday, October 10 - No Classes - Columbus Day
  Friday, November 4 - Last Day for Applying for Degrees to be awarded in February
  Tuesday, November 22 - Monday classes meet this day
  November 23-25 - Thanksgiving Recess
  Friday, December 2 - Last Day to Withdraw - Last Day of Classes
  December 3-6 - Study Period
  December 7-16 - Final Examinations

V. Prerequisite:
None
VI. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of consumer protection law. Students will:

1. Develop an understanding the federal and state regulatory schemes that balance consumer protection rights.
2. Develop a practical understanding of how to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of consumer cases from both the consumer and merchants prospective.
3. Recognize the warning signs of predatory lending, and how to analyze the validity of such a claim.
4. Develop an understanding of how state and federal agencies deal with consumer complaints.
5. Outline protective measures businesses can take to limit risks associated with consumer protection complaints.

VII. Measure of Learning:
Learning outcomes will be measured by class as follows:

1. Writing Assignment #1 (15%)
2. Writing Assignment #2 (20%)
3. Writing Assignment #3 (30%)
4. Writing Assignment #4 (35%)

VIII. Required Text:
Note - if necessary, you can use the Sixth Edition, however you will be responsible for ensuring you can access any differences between the editions.

IX. Methods of Instruction/Procedure:
1. Reading and assignments from the required text.
2. Lecture and discussion on text materials and class discussions
3. Numerous writing assignments

X. Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend class unless an illness or emergency occurs. A record of each student’s attendance will be maintained. Two or more absences may result in the student not obtaining a passing grade at the discretion of the instructor. When possible, any absence should be reported by the student to the instructor prior to class.

XI. Disclaimer:
The instructor reserves the right to change topics covered or the order in which they are covered at his discretion. Although the instructor is an attorney, nothing the attorney says is to be considered giving legal advice.
ASSIGNMENTS

Week One:
Read Chapter 1 - Fraud and Deceptive Practices
Writing Assignment #1 Assigned

Week Two:
Chapter 4 - Federal Quality Control Statutes
Writing Assignment #1 Due
Writing Assignment #2 Assigned

Week Three:
Chapter 5 - Credit (part one) 281-316
Writing Assignment #2 Due
Writing Assignment #3 Given