

SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE INCOME DEVELOPMENT

Summer 2010 SYLLABUS, Part 1

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Course Description

In this course, we will examine the dominant American model for income generation among low-income people, both in historical and current contexts. In the first half of the course, we will trace the origins of this entrepreneurship model, and we will discuss the assumptions about poverty, community economic development, and entrepreneurship that underlie it. In the second half of the course, we will examine how law has been, and can be, used to support the model. We will also consider our role as lawyers serving low-income clients who engage in entrepreneurial ventures. Throughout the course, we will use a case study to develop our understanding and to guide our joint work. The subject of the case study is a group of entrepreneurs who will likely become a client of the clinic for which this seminar is a foundation. By the end of the course, you should have a historical and current perspective on entrepreneurship as a model for income generation in the United States. You will also have participated in a resource mapping and needs assessment exercise to guide low-income entrepreneurs in Boston as well as their attorneys.

Administrative Matters

Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:30. My office hours are Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30, or by appointment.

Evaluation

Your evaluation will be based on an approximately 20-page paper which will be due at **4pm** on the **last** day of the exam period. The purpose of this paper will be to contribute to a resource mapping and needs assessment exercise focusing on low-income entrepreneurs in metropolitan Boston. Class participation is also an important component of this course, and your attendance and participation will be a factor in your evaluation.

Reading Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, all readings are posted on a TWEN website for the course. Many of these are pdf files containing the actual reading; others are Internet links or citations to articles that can be found on Westlaw or Lexis. The readings outlined below are tentative and subject to change, particularly with respect to when exactly they will be assigned. As the course progresses, I will announce changes in class.

I. Political Economy: Why is Entrepreneurship the Dominant American Model for Addressing Poverty?

Class 1 Tony Judt, *What is Living and What is Dead in Social Democracy*, THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, December 17, 2009, p. 86 (read the entire article)

Class 2 Visit from client – no reading assignment

Class 3 THOMAS MEYER, *THE THEORY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY* (2007) pp. 9-30

RANDY ALBELDA ET. AL, *UNLEVEL PLAYING FIELDS: UNDERSTANDING WAGE INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION* (2d ed. 2004) pp. 121-133

Class 4 RANDY ALBELDA ET. AL, *UNLEVEL PLAYING FIELDS: UNDERSTANDING WAGE INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION* (2d ed. 2004) pp. 133-147

VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM: THE INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE (Peter A. Hall & David Soskice eds., 2001) pp. 1-33

II. Introducing the Resource Mapping Exercise

Class 5 Lucie White, *On Abolitionist Critiques, “Homeless Service” Programs, and Pragmatic Change*, 19 St. Louis U. Pub. L. Rev. 431 (2000) (read the entire article)

Lucie E. White, *Collaborative Lawyering in the Field? On Mapping the Paths from Rhetoric to Practice*, 1 Clinical L. Rev. 157 (1994) (read the entire article)

III. Measuring Poverty

Class 6 Bill Quigley, A Social Justice Quiz

Rebecca M. Blank & Mark H. Greenberg, *Improving the Measurement of Poverty* (Brookings Institution Discussion Paper 2008-17), Dec. 2008 (read the entire report)

Amartya Sen, *Issues in the Measurement of Poverty*, 81 SCAND. J. ECON. (1979) pp. 285-293 (top)