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FIRST-YEAR ELECTIVES

Recognizing that many students attend Southwestern to pursue specialized areas of study, a number of electives will now be offered during the first year. Day students will have the option of taking a three-unit elective course during the spring semester in one of the following: Copyright, Criminal Procedure, Legal Profession, International Law, or an academic support course such as Defenses in the Law. In future years, other courses may be rotated into the elective slot. The electives will also be available to second-year evening and PLEAS students during the spring semester.

By offering electives earlier, "we allow students with clear career goals to move more quickly into upper level classes that will build expertise consistent with those goals," says Dean Garth.

ENHANCED ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Ensuring the success of all students has always been the top priority among Southwestern faculty and staff. For many years, the law school has offered a series of activities that provide assistance and guidance to those who find themselves grappling to stay afloat as they seek to master a new way of thinking. These include a general

academic support program; faculty one-on-one tutoring for upper-division students on academic probation from the first year; exam writing workshops; and the Student Success program, which is open to students during the summer following their first year.

Incorporated into Southwestern's new curriculum will be an additional program for students whose Fall exam scores indicate they might benefit from more in-depth academic support. This three-unit, full semester Academic Support course will be open by invitation to first-year day students, as well as second-year evening and PLEAS students. Taught by full-time faculty, the course will instruct students in critical thinking, writing, listening, case-briefing, client-interviewing and test-taking skills in the context of new doctrinal material. This year's course will be titled "Defenses in the Law."

The idea, Professor Carpenter explains, is that integrating new material with new skills is the best way to ensure long-term improvement, since the skills will be translatable to future academic experiences. "We are confident that students will see an improvement in their performance in all of their

courses," she says. "Even while they're in the middle of this course, we expect they will see growth fairly quickly."

As a whole, Dean Garth anticipates that the new curriculum will provide Southwestern's first-year students with a truly unparalleled learning experience. "I am confident that we enacted a first-year curriculum that truly takes advantage of the experience of other schools, the best scholarship about legal education, the talents of our faculty, and the careers that our graduates ultimately will pursue." ❖

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LAW

SOUTHWESTERN

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SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

Southwestern Launches New First-Year Curriculum

CUTTING-EDGE PROGRAM PROMISES MORE STUDY TIME, ELECTIVES AND PROFESSIONAL FOCUS

The members of the entering class arriving at Southwestern this fall will be following in the footsteps of others, but at the same time blazing a new trail: They will begin their legal studies with an innovative first-year curriculum tailored to the academic and professional needs of Southwestern students.



For the first time in 15 years, Southwestern faculty and administrators have extensively reworked the course requirements for first-year students in the traditional full and part-time programs*. Guided by faculty recommendations, student and alumni input, academic research, and a comprehensive study of nationwide law school curricula directed by Professor Catherine Carpenter for the American Bar Association (ABA), the new curriculum was created with several goals in mind:

- ♦ to provide students more time to master their courses;
- ♦ to place a greater emphasis on the realities of legal practice, the construction of legal careers, and the ethical and social responsibilities of lawyers;
- ♦ to expand the instruction of legal research and writing to include more development of basic lawyering skills as well as earlier exposure to litigation, interviewing and counseling skills;
- ♦ to facilitate students' ability to study specialized areas in the first year; and
- ♦ to provide increased academic support that helps students improve their learning skills.

Southwestern's new curriculum will incorporate – and go beyond – best practices at law schools around the country. "The new curriculum is a terrific mix of what we can do well as a law school and what the students can use to build the skills and professional identities appropriate for effective transitions into the legal profession," explains Dean Bryant Garth, who charged the faculty Curriculum Committee with re-examining the 1L course requirements. "As a new dean, I was amazed by the faculty's willingness to rethink all aspects of the first-year curriculum."

FEWER CLASSES, MORE STUDY TIME

Students will take fewer courses during the first two semesters than in past years. Under the new curriculum, the number of doctrinal courses per semester will be reduced from five to four in the law school's traditional day program, and from three to two in the evening and PLEAS (Part-Time Legal Education Alternative) programs. Torts and Property will each become one-semester, four-unit courses.

According to Associate Dean Christopher Cameron, chair of the Curriculum Committee, "We wanted to take away some of the pressure that first-year students already impose upon themselves, and that we impose upon them with our rigorous academic program, and give them an opportunity to absorb the material at their own pace."

*The SCALE program operates under a different curricular structure.

LAW

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Professor Carpenter, a member of the Curriculum Committee and principal drafter of the ABA's recent *Survey of Law School Curricula*, says the new curriculum enables students to more fully integrate and digest the material. "Having five different substantive classes made it more difficult," she points out. "Students were jumping from one subject to another. This way, students have more time to immerse themselves in fewer subjects."

BRIDGING THE GAP FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Most everyone agrees that the legal profession is bursting with complexities and constantly evolving demands. But two recent studies on legal education – the ABA's *Survey of Law School Curricula* and the Carnegie Foundation's forthcoming book entitled *Educating Lawyers* – suggest that law schools respond by adopting a more practice-oriented approach. The latter study argues that the first-year curriculum is a particularly opportune time to begin guiding students' transition from theory to practice.

With this in mind, Southwestern has created a newly expanded version of its first-year legal research and writing program. Dubbed LAWS (Legal Analysis, Writing and Skills), the new program aims to provide students with a wider variety of practical skills.

Students will receive more detailed instruction in such areas as legal methods and legal reasoning, client and witness interviewing, and appellate advocacy.

In addition, consistent with another basic tenet of the Carnegie Foundation study, LAWS will address various issues pertaining to professionalism and the practice of law, culled from empirical studies of lawyer careers such as the groundbreaking *After the J.D.* project (for which Dean Garth serves on the Executive Coordinating Committee) being conducted by the American Bar Foundation. Topics that will be covered include how lawyers make their careers

and the role of professional values in career success and personal satisfaction.

"Business schools have done well with case studies of how businesses succeed or fail. We will use lawyer careers as a springboard to examine just what makes professional success," says Dean Garth, who will be teaching a component of the course.

LAWS will fulfill six units (three in fall, three in spring), which is twice as many as Southwestern's previous legal research and writing program.

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FULL-TIME DAY PROGRAM - YEAR ONE

FALL		SPRING	
COURSE	UNITS	COURSE	UNITS
Civil Procedure I	2	Civil Procedure II	3
Contracts I	3	Contracts II	2
Criminal Law	3	Elective*	3
Torts/Property	4	Property/Torts	4
LAWS I	3	LAWS II	3
Total	15	Total	15

PART-TIME DAY AND EVENING PROGRAMS - YEAR ONE

FALL		SPRING	
COURSE	UNITS	COURSE	UNITS
Contracts I	3	Contracts II	2
Criminal Law	3	Torts	4
LAWS I	3	LAWS II	3
Total	9	Total	9

PART-TIME DAY & EVENING PROGRAMS - SUMMER OPTIONS

FALL		SPRING	
COURSE	UNITS	COURSE	UNITS
Criminal Procedure	3	Academic Support	3

PART-TIME DAY AND EVENING PROGRAMS - YEAR TWO

FALL		SPRING	
COURSE	UNITS	COURSE	UNITS
Civil Procedure I	2	Civil Procedure II	3
Constitutional Law I	3	Constitutional Law II	3
Property	4	Electives	2+2/3
Total	9	Total	10/11

* choice of one: Criminal Procedure, Copyright, International Law, Legal Profession, Defenses in the Law (subject matter to rotate)

Southwestern Welcomes New Full-Time Faculty for 2006-2007

Beginning this fall, Southwestern's faculty will include two new members, Professor Janine Young Kim and Professor Gowri Ramachandran, whose diverse areas of expertise will bring a wealth of new ideas and energy to the classroom. Initially, Professor Kim will teach Torts and Constitutional Criminal Procedure, and Professor Ramachandran will teach Constitutional Law and Employment Law.

"We are extremely pleased to have Professor Kim and Professor Ramachandran join the Southwestern faculty at this exciting time in the law school's development," said Dean Bryant Garth. "Each brings a unique scholarly background and commitment to the highest level of teaching, and we look forward to welcoming them into our community."

JANINE YOUNG KIM

Professor Kim earned her B.A. with honors and distinction in Humanities from Stanford University in 1995. She continued her studies at Stanford, receiving an M.A. in Modern Thought and Literature the following year. She earned her J.D. in 1999 from Yale Law School, where she was a Coker Fellow and served as editor of the *Yale Law Journal*, executive editor of the *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*, and articles editor of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. She was also a member of the Lowenstein Human Rights Project, which dealt with Shell Oil's conduct in Nigeria, and the Pacific Asian Native American Law Students' Association.

Professor Kim worked for three years as an associate in the corporate department



of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett in New York, where she handled primarily domestic and international loan transactions and securities offerings. She then served as a clerk for Judge Alfred T. Goodwin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena. Since 2003, she has been an assistant professor of law at Whittier Law School, where she has taught courses on criminal law, criminal procedure and corporations, served as an adviser to the Asian Pacific American Law Students' Association, and organized the junior faculty discussion series on scholarship, pedagogy and other issues of interest to tenure-track and visiting professors.

In addition to criminal law and criminal procedure, Professor Kim's research and teaching interests include contracts, corporations, federal income tax, and the relationship between race and the law. Her publications include "Hate Crime Law and Limits of Inculcation," 84 NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2006); and "Are Asians Black?: The Asian-American Civil Rights Agenda and the Contemporary Significance of the Black/White Paradigm," 108 YALE LAW JOURNAL 2385 (1999).

Professor Kim is a member of the board of the Korean American Coalition and the Community Outreach Committee of the Orange County Asian American Bar Association.

GOWRI RAMACHANDRAN

Professor Ramachandran earned her B.A. in Mathematics (graduating cum laude) in 1997 from Yale College, where she was awarded the John Meeker Prize for creative writing and the Anthony D. Stanley Prize for excellence in pure and applied



mathematics, among other honors. Two years later she received an M.A. in Statistics from Harvard University, where her work as a teaching fellow garnered her the Derek Bok Prize for excellence in teaching, based on student evaluations. In 2003, she received her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Yale Law Journal*, served on the board of the Collective of Women of Color, and received an Olin Fellowship for Law, Economics and Public Policy Research.

Professor Ramachandran served as a clerk for the Hon. Sidney R. Thomas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Billings, Montana. In 2004, she was named as a Future Law Professor Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center, and also taught feminist legal theory as a member of the adjunct faculty there. From January to May of this year, Professor Ramachandran is serving as a Visiting Professor at Florida State University Law School, teaching federal jurisdiction and a survey course in anti-discrimination law.

In addition to the subjects of her courses, Professor Ramachandran has researched employment discrimination, federal courts, constitutional law, criminal law, queer and critical race theory, immigration law and criminal procedure. Through her scholarship, she challenges conventional notions of image and identity and the laws that shape those concepts: "Intersectionality as 'Catch-22': Why Identity Performance Demands Are Neither Harmless nor Reasonable," ALBANY LAW REVIEW (Dec. 2005); "Women and Makeup at Work," with Devon Carbado and Mitu Gulati, EMPLOYMENT LAW STORIES (forthcoming book chapter, Foundation Press); and "Freedom of Dress: State and Private Regulation of Clothing, Hair, Makeup, Tattoo and Piercing Choices" (work in progress). ❖