



# AALS Adjunct Workshop

July 23, 2025  
Beth McCormack





## Five Teaching Tips

- Structure
- Controlling Class Discussion
- Office Hours
- Special Tips for Online Classes
- Games to Engage





## Structure

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- Stick to syllabus
- Discuss (almost) all the reading assigned
- Don't change assessments
- “Today's Plan” and “Today's Takeaways”



# Today's Plan

- Awards Ceremony
- Review from Class 1
- Questions
- Discuss Jurisdiction
  - Federal Question Jurisdiction
  - Discuss *Mottley*
  - Practice Questions
- Today's Takeaways

# Today's Takeaways

- Where to file is the first thing a lawyer must think about.
- You can not (should not) file in a court where there is no jurisdiction.
- The Article III power of Congress to create lower federal courts includes the power to define their jurisdiction by statute.
- 28 U.S.C. sec. 1331 is more limited than the scope of federal question jurisdiction under Article III (as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court).
- Federal Courts have limited jurisdiction.
- Under Mottley's well pleaded complaint rule, the court looks only to the plaintiff's claim in determining whether a case arises under federal law.
- The Holmes test works to determine whether a case satisfies the Mottley requirement. If federal law creates the cause of action that the plaintiff seeks to enforce, the federal court has jurisdiction under 28. U.S.C. sec. 1331.
- Jurisdiction can never be waived.





## Controlling Discussion

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- Set expectations on questions on Day 1.
- Differentiate between clarifying questions and hypotheticals.
- Punt to office hours or after class.
- Sometimes I just don't take questions! 🐱





## Office Hours

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- Regular works best – same time and day every week
- Online Office Hours work great
- Tell them they can come in groups
- Tell them they don't have to have a question or be confused to come
- Offer to do practice questions to get people in the door

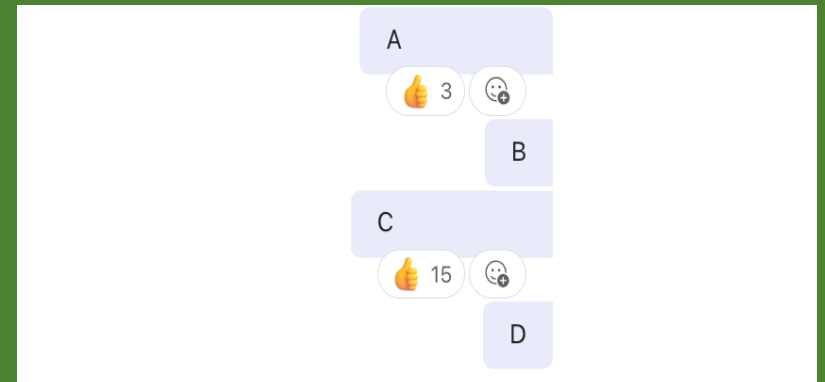




## Special Tips for Online Classes - Synchronous

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- Flipped Classroom
- Break-Out Rooms
- Cameras on
- Cold Calling works great in this environment
- Chat rules
- Use “Thumbs Up” for quick polling
- Make Class Link the same for every class and put it on your course website main page





I <3 Panopto

Search this recording

0:04	Civil Procedure
0:13	Today's Plan
0:28	28 U.S.C. sec.
5:28	28 U.S.C. 1406
7:13	Transfer Factors
11:01	Points on Piper
16:52	Today's Takeaways

# Civil Procedure

## Dean Beth McCormack Vermont Law School

0:00

17:55

0:01 0:04 0:13 0:28 5:28 7:13 11:01 16:52

Civil Procedure

Today's Plan

28 U.S.C. sec. 1391(b)

28 U.S.C. 1406

28 U.S.C. 1406

28 U.S.C. 1406



## Special Tips for Asynchronous Classes

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- Personalize
- You have one week to let them know you are there!
  - Ideally, feedback 1-2 days
- Live office hours
- Responsiveness is most important



## A Few Games

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- Syllabus Challenge
- Course Evaluations Challenge
- Passing during Cold Calling
- Multiple Choice Game





THANK YOU