



## **Penn State Dickinson Law**

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**From the Selected Works of Laurel S. Terry**

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2018

# Dickinson Law's Contexts & Competencies Course: A "One-Pager" for NALP

Laurel S. Terry



**PennState**  
Dickinson Law

Available at: [https://works.bepress.com/laurel\\_terry/85/](https://works.bepress.com/laurel_terry/85/)

## Practicing Law in a Global World: Contexts and Competencies (Req. 907)

### Assigned Reading:

- Ann Southworth & Catherine Fisk, *THE LEGAL PROFESSION* (West Academic 2014) (Excerpts)
- Supplemental materials assembled by Professor Laurel Terry
- Marci Hoffman, *INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH IN A NUTSHELL* (West) (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2008) or (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2017)
- Neil W. Hamilton, [ROADMAP: THE LAW STUDENT'S GUIDE TO PREPARING AND EXECUTING A SUCCESSFUL PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT](#) (ABA 2015) (Strongly recommended but not required)

### Required Activities:

- Conduct 3 Informational interviews with lawyers and write a reflective essay about each interview
- Prepare an end-of-the-semester Portfolio with numerous required items
- Join a local bar association
- Join a state bar association
- Join an ABA committee or other ABA entity
- Join an ABA Section of International Law committee
- Complete Clifton Strengthsfinder 2.0 Assessment
- Attend a Networking event
- Attend at least one speaker lunch
- Prepare an “Elevator speech” to use at the course lunches, networking events, and elsewhere
- Ask someone whether they have used a lawyer and report on their answers and experiences
- Rate the relative importance to their job search of the various items in the Terry “Slice & Dice” memo
- Comparing different law firm websites (AmLaw 200 firms; regional firms; small firms)
- Complete the CALI Company Research lesson and the CALI Introduction to International Law lesson
- Look up information from their car insurance policy and discuss the risk tolerance level it reflects
- Complete an International Legal Research Assignment
- Report on a CCBE Committee
- Research & report on a legal start-up company listed on [angel.co/legal](http://angel.co/legal)
- Analyze a prior project through the lens of legal project management
- Write an analysis of the student’s prior semester Civil Procedure Final Exam
- Complete reflective questions regarding the speaker panels and the assigned reading
- Participate in a team that is responsible for introducing a speaker panel

### Speaker Panels: *(students heard from approximately 40 different lawyers during the semester)*

- Lawyers as Problemsolvers (aka “It’s the Client, Stupid!”)
- Introduction to transactional and regulatory work [i.e., contexts students may not have thought about]
- Criminal Law practice [prosecutors & defenders]
- Other Government Lawyers
- AmLaw 100/200 firms
- Regional law firms
- Solo/small firm practice
- Public Interest work
- In-house counsel
- Compliance work
- Alternative careers (for which a law license isn’t needed)
- International practice
- How associates (and summer interns) are evaluated
- Law practice management

### Assessment:

- Items are graded on a 3 point scale with 1 point for timeliness and 2 points for professionalism [i.e., content]
- 20% of the grade is based on the Portfolio; 10% on each informational interview essay; and 50% is based on the activities and reflective surveys. The course uses the medical school grading system (Honors, High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, Fail); the grade is not factored into a student’s GPA but appears on the transcript.

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\* Feel free to contact me for additional information about this Spring Semester 2-credit required first year course.