

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **LEGL 2252 Family Law**

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: LEGL 2322 Civil Procedure or consent of program director

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Covers matters of domestic law, including the formation and dissolution of marriage, marital property, child custody and support, and other related matters. Appropriate legal documents will be drafted.

##### **B. Additional Information**

Family law covers matters of domestic law including the formation and dissolution of marriage, marital property, child custody and support, and other related matters including drafting appropriate legal documents.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define 15 terms that are relevant to family law.
2. Describe the procedure for a divorce, adoption and annulment.
3. List the grounds for divorce in the state of Arkansas.
4. Distinguish between marital and nonmarital property.
5. Discuss the tax implications in a hypothetical property settlement agreement.
6. Given a set of statute and form book, draft a complaint, answer and property settlement agreement.
7. Given the resources of the law library, research two hypothetical situations and write an interoffice memorandum concerning each one.
8. Given a set of statutes, locate relevant law and write a memorandum applying the law to a set of facts.
9. Summarizing three presentations given in class.

10. Given cases relevant to family law, create briefs of component parts.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will prepare legal documents routinely used in family law issues using appropriate legal terminology.

### **Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills** - Students will identify the legal issues raised in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will discuss ethical issues inherent in the practice of family law.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Arkansas and Oklahoma family law
- B. Ethics and malpractice
- C. The legal interview
- D. Ante-nuptial agreements
- E. Marriage
- F. Annulment
- G. Separation agreements
- H. Child custody and support
- I. Divorce and legal separation
- J. Tax consequences
- K. Rights of women/family torts
- L. Juvenile law/rights of children
- M. Adoption
- N. Class projects (specific to Arkansas or Oklahoma law)