

**Faculty of Law  
Queen's University  
Academic Orientation:  
First Year Legal Foundations Program  
September, 2011**

**Contents**

Contacts .....	1
Introduction to the Legal Foundations Program .....	2
Legal Foundations and Skills Sessions .....	2
Introduction to Legal Research Course .....	2
Legal Foundations Speaker Series .....	3
Law School Visitors .....	5
Legal Research and Writing Materials and other Resources .....	5

**Contacts**

**Stan Corbett, Associate Dean and Director of Legal Foundations Program**

[corbetts@queensu.ca](mailto:corbetts@queensu.ca), extension 77457, room C528

**Amy Kaufman, Head Librarian**

[kaufman@queensu.ca](mailto:kaufman@queensu.ca), extension 32843, Law Library

**Helen Connop, Manager, Education and Equity Services**

[helen.connop@queensu.ca](mailto:helen.connop@queensu.ca), extension 78147, room 107

**Nancy Somers, Manager, Academic Program**

[somersn@queensu.ca](mailto:somersn@queensu.ca), extension 75318, room 512

**Jane Emrich, Assistant Dean of Students**

[jane.emrich@queensu.ca](mailto:jane.emrich@queensu.ca), extension 74283, room 513

**First Year Small Section Teachers for 2010-2011**

**Section 1**

Professor Lynne Hanson, email: [lh2@queensu.ca](mailto:lh2@queensu.ca)

**Section 2**

Professor David Freedman, email: [david.freedman@queensu.ca](mailto:david.freedman@queensu.ca)

**Section 3**

Professor Martha Bailey, email: [baileym@queensu.ca](mailto:baileym@queensu.ca)

**Section 4**

Professor Joshua Karton, email: [joshua.karton@queensu.ca](mailto:joshua.karton@queensu.ca)

**Section 5**

Professor Don Stuart, email: [stuardd@queensu.ca](mailto:stuardd@queensu.ca)

**Section 6**

Professor Hilary Young, email: [hilary.young@queensu.ca](mailto:hilary.young@queensu.ca)

## **Introduction to the Legal Foundations Program**

The First Year Legal Foundations Program at Queen's Law provides students with an academic orientation to the study of law and with an introduction to a number of topics that should be considered and understood by successful law students and lawyers.

There are a number of related components of the Legal Foundations Program: the Legal Skills sessions in your 'small section' course, the Introduction to Legal Research course, and the Legal Foundations Speaker series. First-year students are also very much encouraged to attend as many of the talks organized by the Visitors Committee as possible.

### **Legal Foundations and Skills Sessions**

The students in first year are grouped into six 'small sections' of about 30 students. You will have all of your classes with your small section (this year Contracts, Torts or Criminal); the remaining classes will be with one other small section.

The professor for this 'small section' course will also teach a weekly one and one-half hour Legal Foundations and Skills session. This session may not be held every week for all sections and the individual professors will decide upon the structure and content of the sessions. Some professors, for example, hold sessions on general issues related to legal education, the legal profession, legal ethics and the justice system, as well as the development of legal writing and oral advocacy skills. Small section instructors may also be discussing the upper-year course selection process with his or her section. Your professor will provide you with further information in the first week of classes.

You may also look to your small section instructor as an informal resource person if you have any questions or problems during first year, though there are also other advisors available for a variety of issues. The Manager of Education and Equity Services, Helen Connop (email: [helen.connop@queensu.ca](mailto:helen.connop@queensu.ca); tel: 613-533-6000 x 78147) and the Assistant Dean of Students, Jane Emrich (email: [jane.emrich@queensu.ca](mailto:jane.emrich@queensu.ca); tel: 613-533-6000 x 74283) can help point you in the right direction. The Academic Assistance Program Upper-Year Tutors are also available to help as needed.

### **Introduction to Legal Research Course**

This course is the foundation for all the legal research you will be required to do throughout law school and your legal career. It covers the fundamentals of legal research, including researching legislation, case law, and secondary sources, and citation of those sources. It deals with basic concepts of legal research in an academic environment, including legal authorities, accurate attribution of sources, the assessment of information in a variety of formats, and effective techniques for locating relevant information. The course also covers research strategies and provides an introduction to legal writing. There will be two assignments.

This is an eight-session course, with classes to be held ONLY in the weeks of September through mid-November. Please refer to the first year timetable for scheduling details.

## Legal Foundations Program Speaker Series

The Legal Foundations Program also includes a speaker series that enriches the first-year curriculum and complements the legal skills sessions. The speaker series provides students with an introduction to the study of law, legal ethics and professional responsibility, issues of diversity and perspectives, methods for coping with law school and career options.

**Attendance at the following events is mandatory for all students in first year.** These sessions are an important element of your orientation to the academic study of law and to life as a law student and lawyer-in-training.

**Tuesday, September 6, 1-2:00pm, Room 001**

**Associate Dean Stan Corbett, “Welcome to Law School and the Profession of Law”**

*With the advent of the internet there has been a dramatic increase in the number and variety of sources of materials available to students engaged in academic research and writing. This session will introduce students to the Queen’s University Academic Integrity Policy regarding the appropriate use of materials in the completion of academic work. In addition to defining what constitutes the appropriate use of source materials, the session will also examine the possible consequences of a finding of academic dishonesty. Professor Stan Corbett is the Associate Dean (Academic) of the Faculty of Law at Queen’s University. He is also a member of the Affiliated Faculty with the Queen’s Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, and is a sessional lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences. He has an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Queen’s, and he taught Philosophy at Acadia University from 1980 to 1992. He received his LL.B. from Queens in 1995. His current areas of teaching include Public and Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Human Rights and Public International Law.*

**Wednesday, September 7, 1-2:00pm, Room 001**

**Professors Lisa Dufraimont and Erik Knutsen, “An Introduction to the Study of Law”**

*Starting law school means jumping in to a world of legal reasoning, terminology and institutions. This session aims to familiarize new students with some basic features of our legal system. The presenters will also offer reflections on what students can expect from law school and how they can make the most of the experience and be successful. Professor Lisa Dufraimont researches and teaches in the areas of criminal law, procedure and evidence at the Queen’s University Faculty of Law. After graduating from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 2001, Professor Dufraimont clerked at the Court of Appeal for Ontario and obtained both her LL.M. and her J.S.D. from Yale University. Professor Erik S. Knutsen researches and teaches about insurance, torts, and civil procedure. He earned an LL.M. from Harvard Law School and previously practiced litigation in Thunder Bay, Toronto, and finally New York, where he assisted in litigating 9/11 World Trade Center disaster cases.*

**Friday, September 9, 1-2:30pm, Room 001**

**Mr. Justice Harvey Brownstone, "A Judge's Perspective on How You Should Approach Law School" and Pro Bono Students Canada launch**

*Justice Brownstone of the Ontario Court of Justice, Queen's Law '80, launches the Legal Foundations Program annually with a lecture that covers a wide range of issues, from a trial judge's reflections on legal education to judicial views about best courtroom practices and ethical behaviour for lawyers. This session always provides us with an entertaining, thought-provoking and inspiring start to the year. Justice Brownstone will also speak about the importance of pro bono legal work to students, lawyers and the community. It was, in fact, a pivotal speech delivered by Justice Brownstone over a decade ago that inspired the launch of the Pro Bono Program. Justice Brownstone currently presides at the North Toronto Family Court. He was appointed a provincial judge in 1995, after serving as Director of the Support and Custody Enforcement Program of the Ministry of the Attorney General (now the Family Responsibility Office). He received his LL.B. from Queen's University in 1980, and after working as a full-time Legal Aid duty counsel in the criminal courts, he joined the Legal Aid research facility, focusing primarily on Family Law. Justice Brownstone is also the author of the recent book, **Tug of War: A Judge's Verdict on Separation, Custody Battles and the Bitter Realities of Family Court.***

*This event is co-sponsored by Pro Bono Students Canada, and is the official launch of that program at Queen's for 2011-2012. The talk will be preceded by a light lunch in the student common room.*

**Friday, October 14, 1-2:30pm, Room 001**

**Academic Assistance Program Upper-Year Tutors**

**Part I: "Thriving in Law School", 1:00pm - 1:30pm**

*Being a student in a professional school can be a very demanding experience. Sometimes you might wonder why you ever decided to go to law school. Aside from the many classes, there seem to be unending readings, study groups and multiple other demands on your time - and of course, the pressure to keep up. How do you master large amounts of complex materials in a short period of time? As well, there is your personal and social life, juggling all of these can be a challenge. Come and learn about how to manage your workload, time and stresses in a way that will work for you.*

**Part II: "Exam Preparation and Outlining Strategies", 1:30pm - 2:15pm**

*As first-year practice exams loom, the upper-year tutors will provide you with invaluable advice and tips about the best way to prepare. Find out the answers to frequently asked questions:*

- How much did you use your outlines in exams?*
- How long does it take to do an outline?*
- How useful are study groups?*
- Apart from using an outline, how else would you describe your studying process?*
- How important are your practice exams?*
- How do you use the week off before exams?*
- With previous exams, how do you know if your sample answers are right?*
- Do professors expect eloquent writing on exams?*
- How important is it to cite cases on exams?*

**Friday, October 28, 1 - 2:00pm, Room 001**  
**Professor Joshua Karton, "Exam Writing Skills"**

*To succeed at law school, you will need to master the law school exam, in particular the dreaded fact pattern. This session will lift the veil on how law professors go about designing exam questions and what kinds of answers they are looking for. We will cover deciphering instructions, time management, issue-spotting tricks and techniques, structuring your answers, common pitfalls and mistakes, citing cases, and dealing with exam anxiety. Professor Karton studied at Yale and Columbia Law School, worked as a lawyer in New York and Hong Kong, and then completed a PhD at the University of Cambridge. His research interests include international commercial law, comparative contract law, and sociology of law. At Queen's he teaches contracts, commercial law, and international arbitration and coaches the Vis Moot team.*

**Friday, November 4, Room 001**  
**Professor Allan Manson, "Ethics and Professionalism"**

*What's the difference between ethics and professional responsibility? Why are they both important? What does it mean to be a lawyer? What obligations do lawyers and law students have to the profession, to each other, and to the public? How does the public perceive lawyers and the legal profession i.e. are lawyer jokes justified or does the legal profession just get bad press? This session will explore some of the key issues and problems confronting practitioners and the profession as a whole. Professor Manson specializes in the areas of sentencing and prison law. Prior to joining the faculty at Queen's, he practiced criminal law. He has also served as Deputy Judge on the Yukon Territorial Court.*

### **Law School Visitors**

The law school's Visitors Committee, chaired this year by Professors Metcalf and Essert, arranges an annual program of visits by nationally and internationally prominent scholars, who present seminars and lectures on a wide variety of legal subjects and issues. We encourage you to attend as many of these optional sessions as you can. Information about these and other law school events will be available on the student listserv throughout the year.

### **Legal Research and Writing Materials and other Resources**

You should buy a legal dictionary and the *The Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, published by Carswell and available in the university bookstore. This publication, which is prepared by members of the McGill Law Journal, is often referred to as 'The McGill Guide'. It is widely used by Canadian practitioners, judges, academics, and law students, and it serves as the standard reference guide for many Canadian law journals.

In addition, the law school has arranged for several books that provide a valuable orientation to law school and to legal research and writing to be available in the Bookstore. Your small section professor may recommend that you purchase at least one of the following texts:

*Introduction to the Study of Law, 6th ed.*, Stephen Waddams, Carswell  
*The Law School Book, 2nd ed.*, Allan Hutchinson, Irwin Law

*Legal Writing and Research Manual, 6th Edition, Iosipescu and Whitehead, Butterworths*

The Waddams book contains a concise overview of the legal education process. It has a helpful list of Latin words and phrases in common legal use. The discussions of legal research and writing, legal analysis, and how to write a law school exam are all fairly brief, and thus these sections should perhaps be supplemented by the material in another text.

The Hutchinson book is quite comprehensive. It contains useful sections on the study of law; it examines theoretical perspectives of law and situates the law within a broader social and historical context. It contains extensive, useful sections on legal research and writing and legal reasoning. There is a chapter on life in law school, emphasizing balance and stress/time management, and chapters on mootings and career options.

The Legal Research and Writing manual is a very practical handbook with a number of useful examples.

*We hope that you will find your first year of law school academically and personally challenging, rewarding and enriching. We wish you every success with the program, and look forward to meeting you soon*

*The Faculty and Staff of Queen's Law*