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ABOUT THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW

Purpose

The SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW is a semiannual, online journal dedicated to the analysis of recent opinions published by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. The SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW seeks to keep the legal community abreast of developments and trends within the Seventh Circuit and their impact on contemporary jurisprudence. The articles appearing within the SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW are written and edited by Chicago-Kent College of Law students enrolled in the SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW Honors Seminar.

The SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW Honors Seminar

In this seminar, students author, edit, and publish the SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW. The REVIEW is entirely student written and edited. During each semester, students identify cases recently decided by the Seventh Circuit to be included in the REVIEW, prepare initial drafts of case comments or case notes based on in-depth analysis of the identified cases and background research, edit these drafts, prepare final, publishable articles, integrate the individual articles into the online journal, and “defend” their case analysis at a semester-end roundtable. Each seminar student is an editor of the REVIEW and responsible for extensive editing of other articles. Substantial assistance is provided by the seminar teaching assistant, who acts as the executive editor.
The areas of case law that will be covered in each journal issue will vary, depending on those areas of law represented in the court’s recently published opinions, and may include:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- antitrust
- bankruptcy
- civil procedure
- civil rights
- constitutional law
- copyright
- corporations
- criminal law and procedure
- environmental
- ERISA
- employment law
- evidence
- immigration
- insurance
- products liability
- public welfare
- securities

This is an honors seminar. To enroll, students must meet one of the following criteria: (1) cumulative GPA in previous legal writing courses of 3.5 and class rank at the time of registration within top 50% of class, (2) recommendation of Legal Writing 1 and 2 professor and/or Legal Writing 4 professor, (3) Law Review membership, (4) Moot Court Honor Society membership, or (5) approval of the course instructor.
PREFACE

I had the honor of serving as the Executive Editor of the SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW during the 2013–2014 academic year. I have had such a rewarding experience this past year, and I would like to thank Professor Morris and the seminar students for making my experience a memorable one.

Authors of the REVIEW write a case note about current issues recently heard at the Seventh Circuit. In sixteen short weeks, each student chooses a topic, researches it, and writes a publishable article expressing their opinion on that topic. Additionally, each author serves as an editor, providing feedback and support to one another. In my role as Executive Editor, I worked closely with students through every step of the writing process, taking on both a teaching and an editing role. Through this experience, I watched each student grow as a writer, and my own writing improved as well.

This course is so unique because the goal of the course—to write a publishable article—does not have a substantive base. Class time is spent learning not only the mechanics of academic legal writing but also learning how to think analytically about the law. This type of discussion is not necessarily available in other law school courses, and I found it both challenging and thought-provoking. By focusing on why the law is the way it is, Professor Morris facilitates a discussion that inevitably leads to a deeper understanding of specific legal issues.

McKenna Prohov will be the new Executive Editor for the 2014–2015 academic year. She participated in the course first as an author and editor, and I played an active role in selecting her for Executive Editor. I have complete confidence in McKenna, and I know she will do a fantastic job at teaching and editing the REVIEW.
Students from this past year should be proud of their contributions to the SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW. I can confidently say that each article will be of assistance to the legal community as a whole. Thanks again to Professor Morris for leading such a wonderful class, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the REVIEW as much as I enjoyed working on it.

Very respectfully,
Kathleen Mallon
Executive Editor, SEVENTH CIRCUIT REVIEW