

American Litigation Skills Seminar: From Accepting a Client to Finishing an Appeal

Visiting Lecturer **Assoc. Prof. Priscilla Harris**, US Fulbright Core Scholar, 2016-2017

In this course the students of the Faculty of Law Vilnius University will examine an American case filed in federal court based on diversity jurisdiction from beginning to end. The students will become acquainted with the skills used by litigators as they handle a case. The course will focus on five aspects of a civil lawsuit.

First, the students will examine how an attorney makes this decision to represent a client. They will also examine how to draft and file a complaint. The students will learn about interviewing a client, addressing ...ethical concerns, conducting research, deciding where to file a complaint, and drafting a complaint.

Second, the students will examine what happens after a complaint is filed and before trial. The students will learn about drafting an answer to the complaint, filing motions and responses to motions, and undertaking various methods of discovery.

Third, the students will examine how a case may proceed to mediation before trial. The students will learn various styles of mediation and conduct limited role-playing.

Fourth, the students will examine how a case is tried. The students will learn about voir dire and the selection of jurors. The students will also learn about opening statements, closing arguments, questioning witnesses, and introducing evidence.

Fifth, the students will examine how a case is appealed after a judgment has been entered. The students will learn about the Circuit Courts of Appeal and the US Supreme Court.