

CHICAGO KENT COLLEGE OF LAW

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING PROGRAM

- Staffing:** Full-time Writing Faculty¹ teach the first year courses, LRWI and LRWII, with the assistance of third-year teaching assistants and LEXIS and WestLaw reps.
Adjuncts and librarians teach LRWIII and LRWIV
The Senior Seminar class is taught by full-time faculty, writing faculty, or adjuncts.
- Class size:** 20-30 for LRWI and II
- Credits:** LRWI (3 credits), LRWII (2 credits), LRWIII (1 credit), LRWIV (3 credits), and Seminar (2 credits).

FIRST YEAR²

1ST Semester: research (print and online simultaneously) is taught in the following sequence:

- Students begin each of the following 3 sequences of research training with readings from the Kunz research text.
- Students take the Self-Guided Library Tours³ :
 - a. Dictionaries, Thesauri, Encyclopedias, Legal Periodicals, Treatises, ALR, Restatements, and Pattern Jury Instructions.
 - b. Case Reporters and Digests
 - c. Statutes, Regulations, and Uniform Model Laws.⁴
- Students then go into the library with their professors and the TA to do a hunt and find exercise in each type of print source (they work in groups of about 4).
- WL and LEXIS reps introduce students to each on-line version following the print training (including citators).
- When the students begin research training, they have already been assigned an open research memo, so class discussion and online training are focused on their immediate research needs.

¹ Half of our LRW faculty are on long-term contracts; the other half are on contracts capped at 4 years. We teach only one section of LRW I and II as well as a doctrinal course.

² Librarians also conduct library tours during our Orientation week for new students.

³ These tours, first formulated by Molly Lien and Suzanne Ehrenberg, are regularly updated by librarians to ensure that they conform precisely to the Chicago Kent collection. These tours have gone a long way to make new students comfortable with the library.

⁴ The statute/reg sequence comes later in the first semester after we give students the statutory research assignment.

- Research collaboration is encouraged, but sharing of student written material is forbidden.
- Near the end of the semester, students produce a research diary for a statutory research assignment that will become a trial brief in the second semester; their diary is an excellent opportunity for writing professors to assess developing research skills.

2ND Semester:

- Writing professors conduct research strategy sessions and research skills review aimed at the trial brief.
- WL and LEXIS conduct more advanced training, this time keyed specifically to the individual professors' appellate brief problems.
- Class discussions continue to focus on research strategies for the appellate brief, as well as document form and persuasive writing.

SECOND/THIRD YEAR

LRW III: This adjunct-taught course involves the drafting of a partnership agreement. Adjuncts are given regular online updating by the LEXIS and WL reps. Librarians come to the class to lecture on form book use and drafting resources.

LRW IV: This course is primarily adjunct-taught and focuses on several different areas: Labor and Employment, IP, Environmental Law, Real Estate, Public Interest, Civil Litigation, or Criminal Appellate Practice.

Librarians give a series of presentations to these classes:

Looseleafs and Administration Law

International and Foreign Law

Empirical Research

These presentations are complemented by excellent handouts and hunt and find exercises. Where possible these presentations are geared to the specific needs of the subject matter of the class.

Librarians also teach **Legislative History** in the context of our required Legislative Process class.