Art Law

Art Law is a study of the main legal issues involved in the acquisition, ownership and disposition of works of art. The primary perspective is that of an attorney in the representation of an art collector, and how the transactional arc involves regular concerns, such as contract law, as well as art specific concerns, such as Nazi-era looted art. Part I Acquisition begins with a focus on the legal issues raised by the various venues for art purchases (art commissions, through a dealer, at auction) and follows with the two core issues of authenticity and good title. Part II Ownership concerns three topics that could arise during the ownership phase: crossing borders, moral rights and art loans. Part III Disposition completes the transactional loop with a discussion of how one transfers works of art during life or at death, whether by sale or gratuitous transfers, including valuation concerns. The course will include several drafting exercises (some of which will be done in teams) and a one-hour in-class final. (Rhodes)

The Law of Jury Selection

This course will focus on various legal and practical considerations that attorneys must face both during and following the jury selection process. The course will cover: Constitutional issues; what must be proven to establish bias; the role of trial consultants (particularly in high profile cases); challenges to the array, challenges for cause and peremptory challenges; timing and procedural limitations; the significance of group dynamics; questioning techniques and the use of questionnaires; problems at trial and during deliberations; and the extent to which the parties may be entitled to examine prospective jurors in various areas of inquiry (such as occupation, education, knowledge of the case, legal and government experience, religious and educational beliefs). Students will participate in a mock voir dire, prepare a draft questionnaire and complete a brief (5-7 page) paper on a topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor. (Donner)

Law and Poverty

This course concerns those areas of civil law which most affect low income persons: landlord/tenant, federal housing, welfare, social security, Medicaid, Medicare, unemployment compensation, and civil rights. Other systemic issues will be explored, such as wealth discrimination, use of legal remedies to promote social change, and the delivery of legal services to low income persons. (Ramirez, Rose)

Law and the Subprime Debacle

Beginning in late 2007, a rash of defaults in subprime mortgages triggered a historic credit crisis. This crisis has now resulted in a historic global economic contraction. This class will examine the role of law in precipitating and propagating the crisis. Financial regulation, corporate governance, globalization, and housing law will be examined to determine the role of each in creating the crisis and amplifying the crisis. Specific solutions will be offered. Finally, an institutional assessment of law and regulation will be undertaken to consider broader reforms. (Ramirez)