INSTRUCTOR: Bill Thoms, J.D.

OBJECTIVE: This cutting edge course provides in depth instruction in one of the most dynamic and challenging areas of the law. Paralegals in this exciting area work on copyrights, patents, trademarks, unfair competition, protection of trade secrets, and much more. The knowledge gained in this course is not only applicable to full or part-time law office employment, but is also essential for authors and business owners who may be involved in entertainment and contract matters. This challenging specialty is in great demand.

EXPECTATIONS: You will be expected to spend an average of 8 hours per week reading and completing writing assignments. Please note that, barring extenuating circumstances, extensions will not be granted for this online course. 70% is the minimum passing score on all tests and assignments for this course. Students may consider working ahead in the curriculum if they have the time. Coursework in Intellectual Property is equivalent to 45 clock hours of study.

PREREQUISITES: Successful completion of Paralegal I and II, or equivalent experience.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


HIGHLY RECOMMENDED LEGAL RESOURCES:

- WESTLAW legal research access, available for the duration of the course for only $75. Click Here to Order

To order, call The Center for Legal Studies at 800-522-7737 or Order Now Online

Reading Assignments for Lesson Topics:

**Lesson One:** Introduction to Intellectual Property
Read Chapter 1 in *Intellectual Property: The Law of Trademarks, Copyrights, Patents, and Trade Secrets* (IP)

**Lesson Two:** The Law of Trademarks and Trademark Registration Process
Read Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 in IP

**Lesson Three:** Foundations of Copyright Law and Copyright Registration and Search
Read Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13, in IP

**Lesson Four:** New Developments in Copyright Law and Semiconductor Chip Protection Act.
Read Chapter 15 in IP
Lesson Five: The Law of Patents and Patent Infringement  
Read Chapters 17, 18, & 20 in IP

Lesson Six: Patent Ownership and Transfer; The Law of Trade Secrets and Unfair Competition  
Read Chapters 19, 22, & 23 in IP

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: For each lesson you will submit a 50-point short answer assignment covering the topics in that lesson's reading. These assignments are due by 9:00 a.m. each Friday.

EXAMS: You will complete two exams. Each is worth 100 points. The Midterm exam is to be submitted with your Lesson Three Assignments; the Final exam is to be submitted with your Lesson Six Assignments.

BULLETIN BOARD ASSIGNMENTS: You will also post your responses to six class participation assignments. These assignments are referred to as Bulletin Board Submissions and will be submitted by either selecting Bulletin Board Submission from within the lesson material, or by selecting ‘Forums’ under Activities on the Left Hand Block.

All lesson objectives, assignments, and tests can be found in the Lesson Materials.

GRADING: Your grade will be based on your completion of six writing assignment assignments, two exams, and class participation/Bulletin Board Submissions. The exams and writing assignments can be accessed from within the lesson material, or by selecting ‘Assignments’ under Activities on the Left Hand Block. You will have the opportunity to engage in “class participation” by using the Bulletin Board tool to respond to the bulletin board assignments throughout the course. Also, participating in the bulletin board assignments will enhance your understanding of the reading material.

Your final grade will be figured as follows:
- The six writing assignments are worth 50 points each and comprise 40% of your grade.
- The two exams are worth 100 points and comprise 40% of your grade.
- Your participation in class participation assignments comprises 20% of your grade.