

**Corporate Criminal Liability § 545**  
**Spring Semester 2016 Course Syllabus**

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Required Texts:

White Collar Crime, Cases, Materials, and Problems (3rd ed. 2015)  
by J. Kelly Strader and Sandra D. Jordan.

This course is an overview of federal criminal law other than crimes against the person. The class covers a range of topics, including corporate crime, offenses by corporate officers and agents, group crimes prosecuted using the controversial Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, and crimes by individuals. The course is structured as a writing class. There will be no midterm or final examinations. Students will instead write a research paper in accordance with the Upper Level Writing Requirement.

The ULWR paper should address a contemporary issue in white collar crime. The topic must be approved in advance. The paper shall be a minimum of 20 pages long in a double-spaced format. A draft of the paper must be submitted for review on April 7, 2016. The final paper must be submitted in electronic form on May 6, 2016.

Students are expected to be prepared for each class meeting and ready to take part in discussion and analysis of the week's assigned reading. Class participation is essential to the learning experience, and accounts for 25% of each student's final grade.

## Writing Requirements

Please review the Student Handbook. In my edition of the Handbook, the Upper Level Writing Requirement is located at IV(A)(8)(a).

The contents of the paper must be as follows:

(1) **Cover page.** The cover needs to have your name and student identification number, as well as the title of your paper.

(2) **Table of contents.** This table should list the various divisions of the paper.

(3) **Table of authorities.** This table should list all of the cases, statutes, law review articles, websites, and so forth cited in the paper. The table should be divided into categories.

(4) **Introduction.** The introduction tells the reader in summary fashion what he or she is about to read. It can be as brief as a few sentences, or as long as a page or two.

(5) **The body of the paper.** This section can be divided into as few or as many sections or headings as needed in order to provide an organized, logical order to the discussion.

(6) **Conclusion.** Briefly summarize the subject and conclusions of the research paper.

Law students train to become advocates. It is therefore important the paper present a point of view. A dry recitation of cases without a thesis is not acceptable. At the same time, do not ignore cases and other authorities contrary to the writer's perspective. Instead, describe them and show how they are inapplicable or should not be controlling.

Grading is based upon three overarching criteria: legal research, legal reasoning, and style/grammar. The most important of these benchmarks is legal reasoning. Students should demonstrate an understanding of the materials, ability to analyze the subject, and to write persuasively on the topic.

The authorities cited in the paper should be primary legal authorities, such as statutes, cases, constitutions, and secondary legal materials, such as law review articles, treatises, and websites. Non-legal authorities are acceptable, but should not be the principal sources for your presentation. Please note: **Wikipedia is not an acceptable authority. Do not cite Wikipedia.**

## **Weekly Reading Assignments**

### Week 1. January 21, 2016

Chapter 1: Overview of White Collar Crime [pp. 1-20]

Chapter 2: Corporate and Individual Liability [pp. 21-60]

### Week 2. January 28, 2016

Chapter 3: Conspiracy [pp. 61-108]

### Week 3. February 4, 2016

Chapter 4: Mail and Wire Fraud [pp. 109-190]

### Week 4. February 11, 2016

Chapter 5: Securities Fraud [pp. 191-252]

### Week 5. February 18, 2016

Chapter 6: Health Care Fraud and Abuse [pp. 253-277]

Chapter 7: Bribery and Gratuities [pp. 279-317]

### Week 6. February 25, 2016

Chapter 8: Extortion [pp. 319-350]

Chapter 9: False Statements [pp. 351-382]

### Week 7. March 3, 2016

Chapter 10: Perjury and False Declarations [pp. 383-413]

Chapter 11: Obstruction of Justice [pp. 415-460]

*Writing requirement research topics due*

March 10, 2016

Semester break. No class.

### Week 8. March 17, 2016

Chapter 12: Tax Crimes [pp. 461-497]

Chapter 13: Money Laundering and Related Financial Crimes [pp. 499-549]

### Week 9. March 24, 2016

Chapter 14: RICO [pp. 551-619]

Week 10. March 31, 2016

Chapter 15: Internal Investigation and Compliance Programs [pp. 621-655]

Chapter 16: The Grand Jury [pp. 657-689]

Week 11. April 7, 2016

Chapter 17: Self-Incrimination—Witness Testimony and Document Production [pp. 691-718]

Chapter 18: Civil Actions, Civil Penalties, and Parallel Proceedings [pp. 719-755]

*Draft papers due*

Week 12. April 14, 2016

Chapter 19: Sentencing [pp. 757-811]

Week 13. April 21, 2016

Chapter 20: Forfeitures [pp. 813-872]

Week 14. April 28, 2016

Review

May 6, 2016

Completed writing requirement papers due

## **Disability Services Statement**

Western State College of Law provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The Disabilities Services Office assists qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at Western State College of Law.

To seek reasonable accommodations, a student must contact Senior Assistant Dean Donna Espinoza, Student Services Director and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Second Floor Students Services Suite. Dean Espinoza's phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; [despinoza@wsulaw.edu](mailto:despinoza@wsulaw.edu). When seeking accommodations, a student should notify Dean Espinoza of her or his specific limitations and, if known, her or his specific requested accommodations. Students who seek accommodations will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor or professor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with Dean Espinoza to allow for time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please notify Dean Espinoza; or please notify Associate Dean of Students Charles Sheppard at [csheppard@wsulaw.edu](mailto:csheppard@wsulaw.edu) or (714) 459-1152. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law's "Policy against Discrimination and Harassment."