April 23, 2019

Dear Legal Writing Colleagues,

Three doctrinal professors and I are planning to launch a “common case” project here at the University of Kansas School of Law. Our common case would be a legal opinion that touches on diversity, equity, and inclusion concerns that would be taught by several professors in different classes.  We would create “talking points” for each professor and then approach and ask them to include the case in their course material. The purpose of the project is to encourage more professors to include cases that address diversity issues and, through repetition, increase the likelihood that students would remember the case and the lessons taught.

While we think this would fit best in the 1L year, we are open to thinking about implanting it in the upper-level curriculum as well. We do not anticipate that every professor in the 1L curriculum would teach the common case, but rather have a more realistic goal of 3-4 classes across both semesters using the case: for example, a case that could be taught in Civ Pro and Torts in the fall, and then Property in the spring. Then we would also incorporate it into a legal writing assignment. Given the nature of the 1L curriculum, civil cases would work better than criminal cases.

**Have any of you attempted a similar project at your school?** If so, I would love to hear about the case you used, and for which classes, as well as any other ideas and reflections you have about your experience.

**Is there a case you are aware of or use in your teaching that touches on issues of diversity, equity, or inclusion and thus might be appropriate for our common case?** We welcome any suggestions, even if you haven’t used it in the manner we are planning.

Please reply off-list to Betsy Six at [bsix@ku.edu](mailto:bsix@ku.edu).  Thank you!

-Betsy

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(Pronouns she/her/hers)