Mental Health Law University of Florida Levin College of Law Spring 2025 Syllabus & Course Policies Law 6930 Class 12834 -- 3 credits

Professor Lea Johnston

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Class location: Holland Hall 285A

Class time: W, F: 1:15 – 2:40 p.m.

Office Hours: Wed, 2:40-4:40 p.m.

1. Course Description. This course explores the law's treatment of individuals with mental disorders. The course will cover governmental efforts to deprive those with mental disorders of liberty and property through the criminal and civil systems, as well as certain entitlements and protection against discrimination.

- 2. Student Learning Outcomes. After completing this course, students should be able to:
- Elucidate the difference between mental disorder and "mental disability" for legal purposes.
- Articulate when and how mental health professionals may participate in the legal process, how to utilize these experts, and how effectively to respond to them.
- Demonstrate insight into how effectively to counsel and advocate for individuals with serious mental illness.
- Apply statutes concerning insanity, diminished capacity, and capital sentencing in state courts.
- Apply state statutes and procedural rules concerning civil commitment and guardianship in state courts.
- Apply case law concerning competency and the right to refuse and consent to psychiatric treatment in state and federal courts.
- Apply relevant portions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in state and federal courts.
- Identify and establish, from a given fact pattern, possible violations of procedural rules, statutes, and due process principles concerning the legal regulation of individuals with mental disabilities.
- Identify and defend the values underlying competence, autonomy, paternalism, the best interests test, and substituted judgment.
- Explain a defense attorney's ethical and legal obligations to his or her client with mental disorder in criminal and civil commitment proceedings.

- **3.** Assessment of Student Learning and Grading Evaluation. I will assess your attainment of competency in these learning outcomes through a final examination. Your grade in the course will reflect the following:
- 85% of grade: cumulative final exam
- 15% of grade: participation in class, which reflects your "good faith completion" of assigned reading, assigned videos, <u>assigned problems and discussion questions</u>, and any assigned quizzes.
- **4. Required Instructional Materials.** The textbook will be Christopher Slobogin et al., Law and the Mental Health System: Civil and Criminal Aspects (**6th ed.** 2014). This is **not** the latest edition of the case book (this will save you some money!). Supplemental materials are posted on Canvas.

Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments

- **5.** Attendance Policy. Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students are allowed <u>four</u> absences during the course of the semester. To be "present," a student must arrive to class on time. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement may be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found <u>here</u>.
- **6. Class Preparation, Participation, and Experience.** Consistent with ABA Standard 310, you should expect to spend at least **six hours** per week preparing for this three-hour course.

Our time in class will focus on case explications and discussion of problems, big-picture questions, and hypotheticals. The tentative syllabus at the end of this document sets forth the topics we will cover in each class, as well as anticipated readings, videos, problems, and occasional (ungraded) quizzes. Much of this material can be found on Canvas.

I expect each of you to attend class prepared. A portion (15%) of your grade is for class participation, which will reflect your good faith completion of all assigned work, including all assigned problems and discussion questions.

¹ University-recognized religious holidays are exempt. Please provide me with advance notification of such absences.

To ensure meaningful participation from all class members and to help you build lawyering skills, I may cold-call students using the Socratic method.

7. Preferred Name and Pronouns. It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class and that you are comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. If your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know as soon as possible. I would like to acknowledge your preferred name and pronouns that reflect your identity; please let me know how you would like to be addressed.

You may also change your "Display Name" in Canvas. Canvas uses the "Display Name" as set in myUFL. The Display Name is what you want people to see in the UF Directory, such as "Ally" instead of "Allison." To update your display name, go to one.ufl.edu, click on the dropdown at the top right, and select "Directory Profile." Click "Edit" on the right of the name panel, uncheck "Use my legal name" under "Display Name," update how you wish your name to be displayed, and click "Submit" at the bottom. This change may take up to 24 hours to appear in Canvas. This does not change your legal name for official UF records

8. Discourse, Inclusion, and the Classroom Ethos. As a law student and future lawyer, it is important that you are able to engage in rigorous discourse and critical evaluation while also demonstrating civility and respect for others. This is even more important in the case of controversial issues and other topics that may elicit strong emotions.

As a group, we are likely diverse across racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic, religious, and political lines. As we enter one of the great learning spaces in the world—the law school classroom—and develop our unique personality as a class section, I encourage each of us to:

- commit to self-examination of our values and assumptions
- speak honestly, thoughtfully, and respectfully
- listen carefully and respectfully
- reserve the right to change our mind and allow for others to do the same
- allow ourselves and each other to verbalize ideas and to push the boundaries of logic and reasoning both as a means of exploring our beliefs as well as a method of sharpening our skills as lawyers
- **9. Exams.** There will be a final exam in this course, which will account for 85% of your total grade. The remainder (15%) will be awarded for class participation reflecting good faith completion of all assigned problems, discussion questions, and quizzes.

The final examination will be an <u>in-class</u>, <u>limited open book</u> examination. It will likely contain multiple choice, short answer, and traditional law school essay questions. The exam will

focus on material discussed in class, but all material and concepts covered in the course may be tested to some degree. Exams will be graded anonymously by exam number. The law school policy on exam delays and accommodations can be found here.

Review of Final Exam. How to receive a copy of your exam: After June 1, 2025, students who wish to review their exams can do so by requesting a copy of their exams from my assistant, Victoria Redd, reddva@law.ufl.edu. I will post the exam questions, along with a model answer and best student answers, in the "past exams" folder in Canvas files.

How to ask questions about your exam: I expect that the model answer and best student answer will address most students' questions. I am happy to address any remaining questions by email. Before contacting me, please review your exam and compare it to the model answer. I will not re-grade exams.

10. UF Levin College of Law Standard Syllabus Policies. Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations can be found at this link.

11. Health and Wellness Resources:

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact <u>umatter@ufl.edu</u>, 352-392-1575, or visit <u>U Matter, We Care website</u> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <u>Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website</u> or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or <u>visit the Student Health Care Center website</u>.
- *University Police Department*: <u>Visit UF Police Department website</u> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608;
 Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- **12. Basic Needs Assistance.** Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food or lacks a safe place to live is encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs. If you are comfortable doing so, you may also notify me so that I can direct you to further resources.

MENTAL HEALTH LAW: TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

This syllabus is offered as a guide to the direction of the course. Our pace will depend in part on the level of interest and the level of difficulty of each section and is subject to change.

Assignments for the first two weeks of class are included below. A weekly syllabus will be maintained on Canvas and updated each weekend.

CB = Christopher Slobogin, et al., Law and the Mental Health System: Civil and Criminal Aspects (6th ed. 2014).

Approx. Date	Subject	Topics	Assignment
	Introduction	MODULE 1: – Mental Disorder & Mental H	ealth Treatment
Jan.15	Mental Disorder	Introduction "Mental disorder" - Medicine - Law DSM 5 Race and psychiatry Lived reality of mental disorder	CB: 4 – 18 (to end of n.6), 20-27 Warner, Psychiatry Confronts Its Racist Past, and Tries to Make Amends (file on Canvas) Unzicker, "To Be a Mental Patient" (file on Canvas) Watch the first hour (to minute 1:02) of the 2019 documentary: Bedlam, https://video.alexanderstre et.com/watch/bedlam (1:25:31) Bring 5 observations about the movie to Tuesday's class
Jan.17	Treatment	Guest Speaker: Dr. Tonia Werner, Vice President, Medical	CB: 28 – top of 39, 40-41 (notes 1-4)

		Services/Chief Medical Officer of Meridian; former Director of Forensic Psychiatry Division of University of Florida	Swerlick, Florida's Lukewarm Commitment to Investing in Behavioral Health (on Canvas) Florida Policy Institute, Behavioral Health Services: Funding in Florida (on Canvas) Prepare five questions to ask Dr. Werner
		MODULE 2: Expertise	
		Expertise	
Jan.22	Normality	Frameworks for course: - Substance - Evidentiary predicate Expert opinion on normality: whether person has mental disorder - Importance of diagnosis Ex: Hinkley trial	CB: 493 – 520 (to end of n.1)
Jan.22, 24	Responsibility	Expert opinion on responsibility: connection between mental disorder and legal test Ex: pathological gambling Lewellyn Evidentiary hurdles: - Frye - Fed. R. Evid. 702 - Daubert (in FL!) Mental health evidence under Daubert	CB: bottom of 522 - top of 531 Perez v. Bell South Telecommunications, Inc., 138 So.3d 492 (2014) Andrews v. State, 181 So. 3d 526 (Fla. 5th DCA 2015) Prepare problem on Canvas for discussion

Jan.24, 29	Propensity	Expert opinion on propensity: whether person is likely to commit future harm Barefoot Exercise: subject propensity testimony to: - Fed. R. Evid. 403 - Frye - Daubert - Fed. R. Evid. 702 – assist factfinder Modern propensity evidence: risk assessment instruments • Loomis • Instruments: actuarial vs. structural professional judgment	CB: 542-57 Excerpt from 7 th edition of case book (pp. 556-70) (file on Canvas) The Appeal, "Risk Assessment Tools Are Flawed" (file on Canvas) Optional additional reading
	Constitutional Issues	Right to expert assistance: Ake (DP) Basis of clinical opinion - Statement of D: Estelle (5 th Am) Right to assistance of counsel before pretrial evaluation: Estelle (6 th Am) Discuss the assigned problems in break-out groups	CB: 580 – 607 Prepare Ake problem on Canvas for class discussion. Prepare all parts of problem 5 on pp. 606-07;
		orem our groups	be ready to debate parts A, D, G, & H in class
	Evidentiary Issues	Admissibility of opinion based on hearsay • Goldstein, FRE 703	CB: 607-24 Fla. Stat. §90.703-704

	 (Confrontation Clause problem??) Admissibility of hearsay (on which opinion is based) Goldstein, 703 (like Fla. Stat. 90.703) Confrontation Clause Opinions on ultimate issues Ultimate vs. penultimate issues NO: Edwards, FRE 704 YES: Fla. Stat. 90.703 	Fed. R. Evid. 703, 704
	MODILLES	
	MODULE 3:	
	Criminal Law	
Mental	*watch widee on your own on d	Video. The New Asylums
Disorder &	*watch video on your own and	Video: The New Asylums
Incarceration	write 1-page response paper.	(54:32)
Incarter auon	Abstract of <i>The New Asylums</i> : There are nearly half a million mentally ill people serving time in America's prisons and jails. As sheriffs and prison wardens become the unexpected and illequipped gatekeepers of this burgeoning population, they raise a troubling new concern: are jails and prisons America's new asylums? With exclusive and unprecedented access to prison therapy sessions, mental health treatment meetings, crisis wards, and prison disciplinary tribunals, Frontline goes deep inside Ohio's state prison system to present a searing exploration of the	Canvas assignment: write (and submit through Canvas) a one-page response to The New Asylums.

	Insanity Defense: Cognitive	moving portrait of the individuals at the center of this issue. Rationale for insanity defense Various iterations: Cogntive test: M'Naghten Volitional: ALI test Application of cognitive test: Heads	CB: 625-48 (to end of n.1), 652 – top of 655 Fla. Stat §775. 027 Prepare insanity problems on Canvas for class discussion Optional additional reading
Feb.14	Mock Examination of Expert on Sanity	Guests: Kristofer Eisenmenger, Dr. Tonia Werner, Prof. Sarah Wolking Watch direct- and cross- examination Discussion regarding strategies employed by prosecutor and defense attorney	Psychiatric Evaluation & CV (files on Canvas) Prepare problem on Canvas (outline direct or cross examination) for class
	Insanity Defense: Volitional Mens Rea	Application of volitional test: • Pollard • Problems A and B in n.5 3 ways states limit volitional test Automatism • Vs. insanity defense • Application: Heads? Pollard? Diminished capacity doctrine	CB: 656-73 Prepare problems A and B in note 5 on pages 669-70 for class discussion CB: 673-92 (to end of n.2)
	Testimony	- Examples O Vs. insanity	(12 2-12)

	- Clark Current law re: permit diminished capacity evidence - 3 limitations - Florida law - NO – Chestnut Current law re: abolish insanity and offer only diminished capacity - Kahler: constitutional	Chestnut v. State, 538 So.2d 820 (Fla. 1989) Prepare problem on Canvas (outline oral argument) for class
Diminished Responsibility	Diminished responsibility vs. diminished capacity Current law: not accepted in U.S. Should it be?	CB: 692-94 (note 3 only) Skim: Johnston et al., Diminished Criminal Responsibility: A Multinational Comparative Review (on Canvas)
Other Defenses	Traditional defenses: - Self-defense - Provocation - Duress Trend in law: subjectivization - MPC Full subjectivization vs. insanity Florida law: self-defense - Battered spouse syndrome - PTSD?	Battered spouse syndrome: read to end of Part II at p.640 in Ibn-Tamas, 407 A. 2d 626 (App. D.C. 1979); skim Hickson, 630 So.2d 172 (Fla. 1993) PTSD: Mizell, 773 So.2d 618 (Fla. 1st Dist. App. 2000); Oquendo, 357 So. 3d 214 (Fla. 2d Dist. App. 2023), review granted, No. SC2023-0807, 2023 WL 7132836 (Fla. Oct. 30, 2023) Prepare the problems posted on Canvas for class discussion

eb.26	Panel: Mental Health & the Criminal Justice System in Florida. Guests: Brian Kramer (State Attorney, Eighth Judicial Circuit) and Stacy Scott (Public Defender, Eighth Judicial Circuit) Prepare five questions to ask Ms. Scott and Mr. Kramer.		
		MODULE 4: Civil Commitment	
	Police Power Commitment: Theory	Definition Rights implicated Legitimate purposes served? Procedural protections (vs. criminal law) Why treat MD specially?	CB: 804–25
	Police Power Commitment: Practice	Brooks' 4 elements of dangerousness Today: magnitude of harm Probability of harm Frequency of harm Imminence of harm FL's Baker Act Police power provision Definition of mental illness Problem Gregorovich Nyflot	CB: 826-38; 841 (start at n.2) – bottom of 842; bottom of 845 – top 849 Baker Act: Fla. Stat. §394.467(1), (2)(b); 394.455(29) Prepare problem posted of Canvas for discussion in class

	Parens Patriae Commitment: Theory	"Parens patriae" rationale Why confined to mental disorder? Types of harms Proper scope Any limits set by U.S. Constitution? - Donaldson	CB: 854-72
I	Parens Patriae Commitment: Practice	Mayock (harm to self) Boggs (provocation, self-neglect) Fla. Stat. § 394.467(2)(b) Fla. Stat. § 394.463(1)-(2) - In practice Least restrictive alternatives	CB: 872-88 Fla. Stat. § 394.467(2)(b); § 394.463 (1)-(2) (Baker Act) Prepare problem posted on Canvas for discussion in class
	Assisted Outpatient Freatment	Latest trend: AOT Merits?	CB: 897 – 902 (only notes 4 & 5) Fla. Stat. § 394.467(2)(a) (Baker Act) Skim: Johnston & Klein, Assisted Outpatient Treatment: A State-by-state Comparative Review
	Commitment Procedures	Procedures for involuntary examination & commitment Florida's Baker Act: use and procedures	CB: 904-13 Fla. Stat. §§ 394.463, 394.467 (Baker Act) Flowchart of Involuntary Examination Procedure Under Baker Act

	Voluntary admissions - Prevalence, why favored - "Voluntary?" Informed consent Reform FL's approach - Discharge Discharge in practice	involuntary treatment (on Canvas) Fla. Stat. § 394.467(4)-(7); § 394.4625
Release and Voluntary Admissions	Overview of involuntary civil commitment process Release procedure	CB: 959 – top of 978 Baker Act flow charts: involuntary examination;
Right to Counsel	Does due process require provision of counsel? What role should counsel serve? Ethical rules In practice 1999 FL Supreme Court report	Treatment Procedure Under Baker Act For more information on the use of the Baker Act, see this report: Baker Act Reporting Center, The Baker Act: Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Annual Report (on Canvas) CB: 940-51 Prepare question on Canvas for discussion in class

	 Highlights of report Voluntary admission Constitutional constraints on admission and release: Parham By parents By state Parham's process and holding Focus: admission by parents Florida procedure 	Fla. Stat. §§ 394.4785, 394.4625 Report on Involuntary Examination of Minors by Department of Children and Families (11/1/2019) (*read parts I, III, VI) (file on Canvas) Watch this video: Children in Crisis, Florida's Baker Acted Kids I-Team Investigates, https://www.youtube.com/w atch?v=ODInKaumjIM (3:43)
	MODULE 5: Competency Determinations	
Competency Generally	Definition Justification Appelbaum & Roth's hierarchy of competency concepts Additional proposed tests: • Understanding & belief	CB: 1037-53 Prepare: apply various tests for competency in the context of the Katz case in n.4 on p. 1051
	testVolitional testDifferent person test	

of Substance Abusers		CB: bottom of p.1001-03 (to end of n.2), note 4 (p.1005) What is the Marchman Act?, Lawyer Monthly (Oct.10, 2021) (on Canvas) Marchman Act: A Look Inside Florida's Law Forcing Some Into Drug Treatment, CBS12 News (May 18, 2021) (on Canvas) Marchman Act: skim Fl. Stat. §§ 397.675, 397.68111-6818, 397.6957-6971 Amanda Morris, Britney Spears's Case Raises Questions on Guardianship, New York Times (July 12, 2021)
Guardianship	Definition Criteria for guardianship - 3 approaches Fla. Stat. § 744.102(12): incapacitated person Losh, Smith Less restrictive options Renz Procedure: Fla. Stat. § 744.331 Restoration of competency: § 744.464 Standard of decision-making	CB: 1053-70 (stop at Haves), 1076 (start at n.3) – 1079, 1080-81 (note 7) Losh, 86 So.3d 1150 (Fla. 3d DCA 2012) Smith, 917 So.2d 400 (Fla. 5th DCA 2005) Fla. Stat. §§ 744.102(9), (12); 744.331; 744.334; 744.2005; 744.3215, 744.464 Buzzfeed, Beyond Britney: Abuse, Exploitation, And Death Inside America's

Advanced directive	Guardianship Industry
	(9/17/21) (on Canvas)
	Watch these videos:
	Temporary guardianship,
	https://www.youtube.com/w
	atch?v=Xom4upx_paY
	(1:33)
	Inside the Court Room
	Making a Plea for
	Guardianship,
	https://www.youtube.com/w
	atch?v=kqQM9eNMtOo
	(7:21 start at 2:40)
	Prepare problem posted on
	Canvas for discussion in
	class
	Optional: for detailed
	guidance on the role of
	appointed counsel in
	guardianship proceedings,
	see:
	Erlandsson v. Guardianship
	of Erlandsson, 4th DCA
	(May 6, 2020)
	Optional: For a deep dive
	into Britney Spear's
	conservatorship, see:
	Ronan Farrow & Jia
	Tolentino, Britney Spears's
	Conservatorship Nightmare
	(7/3/21)
	Optional: supplemental
	information for legal
	practice:
1	1

Composito Prod	•	roblems!	ABA Toolkit for Health Care Advance Planning Read: CB: 1127-48 (to end of n.3) Fla. Stat. §§ 916.12 (mental illness), 916.3012 (intellectual disability or autism); Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.210-3.211
			Watch video: Competency Assessment, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOKGS- <u>XuFqk&t=566s</u> (15:18)
			Prepare: three competency problems at pp.1134-41 for class discussion
Compo	-	That happens when a D is found competent to stand trial? • Procedure in Florida • DP constraints: Jackson	CB: 1151-57 (to end of n.3), 1158-59 Fla. Stat. §§ 916.13 (mental illness), 916.302 (intellectual disability or autism); Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.212-3.213 Prepare the problem on Canvas for class discussion
	re W	ne reality of competency storation Then can a state can forcibly edicate restore competence? Sell Harper test Incompetent to make treatment decisions (w/guardian)	CB: 1159-77 (to end of n.3), note 6 (p.1179) Tampa Bay Times, "Definition of Insanity" (on Canvas)

		What happens when competence	
		can't be restored?	
		MODINE (
		MODULE 6:	
		Effective Representation	
Apr.11	Representatio	Guest speaker: Rachel O'Brien,	*all readings are tentative
	n of Clients	Assistant Public Defender,	MaNaal Slow Lawyaring
	with Mental	Eighth Judicial Circuit Public	McNeal, Slow Lawyering: Representing Seniors in
	Illness	Defender's Office	Light of Cognitive Changes
			Accompanying Aging (on
			Canvas)
			Representing Clients with
			Mental Illness: A Resource
			for Louisiana Defenders -
			**only pp.1-12 (on Canvas)
			ARC, When Individuals
			with Developmental
			Disabilities Become
			Involved in the Criminal
			Justice System: A Guide
			for Attorneys - **the whole document is useful, but for
			class I'll expect you to read
			pages 11-14, 18, & 25-26
			(on Canvas)
			Prepare five questions to
			ask Ms. O'Brien
		MODULE 7:	
	Entitlem	ents and Protection Against Dis	ecrimination
		-	
	Right to	Do the following groups have a	CB: 1233-46, 1252-62
	Treatment	right to mental health treatment?	(Youngberg), 1264 (only
		- Individuals in society	Harvard Law Review
		- Currently institutionalized individuals	quote), 1265-66 (only note
	1		1

	- Previously institutionalized individuals	3), 1312-17 (to end of n.2), 1318 (<u>Olmstead</u>) – 1331 Test your knowledge! Take quiz on Canvas.
Americans with Disabilities Act	Cleburne: disability is not a suspect classification - Rational basis with bite? ADA employment discrimination claims: disparate impact - Assigned problem ADA: Discrimination Prima facie case (Murray) - Disability - Qualified individual - Essential function - (direct threat - Hoback) - Adverse E'ment action, causation Legit business reason Pretext - 2 ways to demonstrate (Murray) ADA: Reasonable Accommodation Prima facie case - Disability - Qualified individual - No reasonable accommodation - Undue hardship ADA: Retaliation Prima facie case - Protected conduct - Adverse E'ment action	CB: 1401-05, 1416-30, 1432 (start at n.6) – 1446 (stop at n.5) Nuts & bolts of ADA video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5DderZcsGE (10:35) Prepare the problem on Canvas for class discussion

 Causal connection Temporal proximity Legit business reason Pretext Practice: how to bring ADA discrimination claim 	