

Course Syllabus

Marijuana Law and Policy

Spring, 2026

Course LAW

Class Number

Room

Schedule

January 14-16, 2026

January 14: 10-11:50, 1-3:50

January 15: 9 to 11:50; 1 to 3:50pm

January 16: 9-11:50

Final Paper Due: 1/30/25 at noon

Office Hours: By appointment

Tara L. Tedrow

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CLASS SYLLABUS AND POLICIES:

Required Course Materials: Materials will be provided or you in PDF format. No textbook is required.

Description of the Course and Course Objective and Learning Outcomes: This course is one credit hour. Please note that ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in class instruction. It is expected that you will spend two hours preparing for every hour of in class instruction plus complete the final paper. Because the course includes statutory and regulatory excerpts that require careful reading, as well as discussion problems that require thoughtful advance written preparation, you should spend at least one hour on every 10-15 pages of reading.

The implications of Florida’s marijuana and hemp laws and regulations, as well as the federal regulation and scheduling of marijuana and hemp, have widespread impacts on numerous legal practice areas. Practitioners in real estate, bankruptcy, litigation, employment, criminal, medical malpractice, intellectual property, land use, zoning, development, corporate, business, taxation and other areas must understand how state and federal marijuana regulations impact their clients. Despite the interesting subject matter that marijuana law provides, the primary goal of the course is to develop practical lawyering skills and an understanding of how marijuana regulations impact various practice areas. Additionally, the course will explore the ethical considerations for an attorney advising a client engaged in a marijuana-related business.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the interaction between state and federal regulation of marijuana and hemp and the impact on marijuana businesses;

- Explain and describe the regulations on medical marijuana in Florida and how they impact the operations of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers;
- Analyze the ways in which marijuana and hemp laws and regulations intersect with and impact multiple legal practices areas;
- Prepare and present arguments for both sides of the regulatory debate on marijuana; and
- Provide basic advice to future clients on the ways in which marijuana and hemp laws and policies could impact their clients' interests.

Teaching Philosophy: Great lawyers don't just know how to think, they know how to actually solve problems. We want each of you to walk away with a practical understanding on medical marijuana law and regulations that could be implemented in your future legal practice. We want you to be creative in your thinking on how this new area of law may morph in the future, and ways to handle the issues presented by regulations now, but also to preempt issues that may arise later on. We hope each of you will leave this class with a practical skill set that will benefit your career and clients.

Instructional Methods: The best way for you to learn is to participate actively during class. Since this class is condensed into a short time frame, class will consist of our own interactive lectures, guest speakers and robust group dialogue. We will challenge everyone to take part in civil debates on the topics- you will be expected to understand how to argue for both sides of an issue, even if it means playing devil's advocate for something with which you personally disagree. We encourage everyone to ask questions and expect everyone to actively participate throughout each class hour.

Office Hours: We will arrange to be available by appointment. We encourage you to call or email us if you are having difficulties with, or simply want to clarify your understanding of, any of the materials covered in the reading or in class. Tara's office number is 407-418-6361, her cell phone number is 407-701-6161 and her email is tara.tedrow@lowndes-law.com. Nikki's cell phone number is 954-734-3799 and her email is fried.nikki@gmail.com.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: This is a compressed course. Attendance during all of the class hours is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. If there is some reason why you must miss class, please contact us in advance via telephone or email and ask for an excused absence. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. Depending on the circumstance, a student may be permitted to have an excused absence for 1 hour of class time. If you miss a class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and obtaining any handouts or assignments. If for any reason you anticipate missing more than 20% of the class time, you are advised to withdraw before it is too late to do so. Please review the Student Handbook for further information regarding the attendance policy. The law school's policy on attendance can be found at: <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies>

Class Assignments: In advance of class please read all assigned materials. Any specific in-class discussion expectations will be provided via email to correspond with such handouts and materials. We expect that all of the reading for the class will have been done prior to the first class.

Laptop Policy: Unless instructed otherwise in advance, you will NOT be permitted to use laptops during class. This class is meant to be engaging and your use of laptops and cell phones will only serve to distract you and your classmates. Laptops are only permitted if needed for referencing reading materials and assignments. Any in class lecture notes are expected to be taken by hand.

Make-Up Policy: Because there is no exam and only a final paper, there is no make-up available. The final paper is expected to be turned in by the assigned deadline.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities should register first with the Office of the Dean of Students (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Office of the Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who then must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Because accommodations are not retroactive, students should contact the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible in the semester for which they are seeking accommodation.

Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code

Etiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, chats and in class discussions. Please do not disparage or discourage others' views and participations- such actions will negatively impact the grading for the 50% of your overall participation grade.

<http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Academic honesty: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies>

Class Schedule: This is a compressed course. We will meet January 14-16, 2026. Please refer to the top of the syllabus for class times. Please bring any food or snacks needed to get you through these long class periods.

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

GRADING POLICIES

Grading: This class is graded. In addition to expectations for class participation (which counts toward 50% of your grade), you will be asked to prepare a final paper of a minimum of 5 pages, maximum of 10 (12 point, 1.5 spaced with ½ inch margins). Your citations should be at the end of the paper and will not count toward your page requirements. You will be provided the prompts you will be expected to answer in your final paper during our class. **The paper is due 1/30/25.**

The Levin College of Law's mean and mandatory distributions are posted on the College's website and this class adheres to that posted grading policy. The following chart describes the specific letter grade/grade point equivalent in place:

Letter Grade	Point Equivalent
A (Excellent)	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C (Satisfactory)	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D (Poor)	1.0
D-	0.67
E (Failure)	0.0

The law school grading policy is available at: <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies>

UF LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW STANDARD SYLLABUS POLICIES:

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies can be found at [this link](#).

UF ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

Other information about UF academic policies and resources can be found at [this link](#).

Health and Wellness Resources

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) 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](#).
- 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 us so that we can direct you to further resources.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day/Time	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Day 1	January 14	Background on marijuana regulations & distinctions with hemp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PBS History Timeline Memorandum to the Secretary of Agriculture, dated May 28, 2019 SB 1020 	Reading
		The Cole Memorandum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum for All United States Attorneys, dated August 29, 2013 (the “Cole Memo”) 	Reading
		The Sessions Memorandum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum for All United States Attorneys, dated January 4, 2018 (the “Sessions Memo”) 	Reading
		Federal Issues Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Gonzales v. Raich</i>, 545 U.S. 1 (2005) <i>US v. Pickard</i>, 100 F. Supp. 3d 981 (E.D. Cal. 2015) <i>Conant v. Walters</i>, 309 F.3d 629 (9th Cir. 2002) <i>Up in Smoke or Down in Flames? A Florida Lawyer’s Legal and Ethical Risks in Advising a Marijuana Industry Client.</i> <i>The Florida Bar v. Christensen</i>, 233 So. 3d 1019 (Fla. 2018) 	Reading
		2018 Farm Bill Legalizing Hemp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hemp Regulations 	N/A
Day 2	January 15	Overview of FL Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB8A 	Reading
		FL Case Law on Medical Marijuana: License Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nature's Way Nursery of Miami, Inc., v. FDOH</i>, 2018 WL 3084645 <i>DOH v. Florigrown, LLC.</i>, 320 So. 3d 195 (Fla. 1st DCA 2019) <i>DOH v. Florigrown, LLC.</i>, 317 So. 3d 1101 (Fla. 2021) 	Reading
		FL Case Law on Challenges to Medical Marijuana Regulations and Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>DOH v. People United for Medical Marijuana</i>, 250 So. 3d 825 (1st DCA 2018) <i>DOH v. Redner</i>, 273 So. 3d 170 (1st DCA April 3, 2019) Settlement Agreement (<i>Spring Oaks Greenhouses, Inc. et al v. Fla. Dept. of Health</i>) 	Reading
Day 3	January 16	Federal vs State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bankruptcy Protections Firearms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fried v. Garland</i>, No. 4:22-CV-00164 (N.D. Fla. 2022)- <u>read the first 33 pages only!</u> 	Reading

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cooper v. Attorney General of the United States</i>, No. 22-13893 (N.D. Fla 2025) • <i>New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen</i>, 597 U.S. 1 (2022). • <i>United States v. Connelly</i>, 117 F.4th 269 (5th Cir. 2024) • <i>In re Way to Grow, Inc.</i>, 610 B.R. 338, 341 (D. Colo. 2019) • Cannabis Law Now, Cannabis Trends in 2025 (Jan. 2025), https://www.cannabislawnow.com/2025/01/cannabis-trends-in-2025/ • <i>City & C. of S.F. v. Daley</i>, 20 Cal. Rptr. 2d. 256, 263 (Cal. Ct. App. 1993). • <i>Williams v. Eaze Sols., Inc.</i>, 417 F. Supp. 3d 1233 (N.D. Cal. 2019) <p>Final Paper Assignment</p>	
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Disclaimer: This syllabus represents our current plans and objectives. Those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. We may also have multiple guest speakers come to discuss the topics above so please be prepared to engage with them.