

First Day Assignment
PUBLIC DEFENDER FILED PLACEMENT
LAW 6942 Classroom/Lab (2 credits)
Fall 2022

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Week 1- August 24

- Introductions
- Syllabus Review
- Indigent Defense
- Criminal Legal System – Discussion: origin, barriers, remedies

Assignment:

Watch: “13th” (*approx. 1 hr 40 min*)

If you have Netflix, GREAT! It makes for better viewing. If you do not have Netflix, you can watch the full feature on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8&t=299s> (Links to an external site.)

Please note that the film contains graphic images. Please take care of yourselves while viewing it. Call me if you need some assistance processing the content prior to our class discussion.

Watch: Bryan Stevenson: We need to talk about an injustice

https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice (Links to an external site.)

Read:

- Criminal Practice: A Handbook for New Advocates, Introduction and Chapters 1-2
- “Careers in Indigent Defense: A Guide to Public Defender Programs,” Williams, Lisa. <https://hls.harvard.edu/content/uploads/2008/07/2012pdguide.pdf> (Links to an external site.)
- “Cultural Revolution: Transforming the Public Defender’s Office,” Steinberg, Robin, Feige, David, Papers from the Executive Session on Public Defense (2002). <https://www.bronxdefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Cultural-Revolution-Papers-from-the-Executive-Session-on-Public-Defense.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

Weekly Assignments:

Weekly assignments will be posted in Canvas 1-3 weeks in advance. Each week's assignment and journal entry upload ability will be available starting the Wednesday evening of the prior class meeting.

By "building out" our assignments, this allows for flexibility to discuss issues most relevant to your PDO8 assignments and experiences, as well as scheduling potential guest speakers.

General Topics We Will Cover:

- The nature of indigent criminal defense practice and the criminal legal system
- Current common issues and relevant case law for Florida misdemeanor cases
- Jury Selection
- Plea Negotiation
- Self-care and values
- Case rounds and any relevant matters associated with your representation of clients