Newseum Institute - Specialized First Amendment Directed Research Opportunities

The Newseum Institute’s First Amendment Center and the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America are in the process of developing a relationship designed to enhance the educational mission of both organizations. The objectives of the relationship are to instill among a rising generation of lawyers a sense of the importance of the First Amendment’s five freedoms (speech, press, religion, petition, and assembly) and to assist the First Amendment Center with research related to topics of current interest. Toward that end, five members of the law faculty have agreed to supervise one, and perhaps two, directed research projects undertaken by qualified students. These will be two-credit directed research projects and each will focus on one or more of the First Amendment’s five freedoms. **The objective is to provide students with hands-on experience in researching significant First Amendment issues and to produce analyses appropriate for publication by the Newseum Institute’s First Amendment Center’s web site.** There is no guarantee that the student’s work will be published on the Newseum’s web site, for that is a decision that the Newseum will make, but it is anticipated that the student will likely have some interaction with the Newseum Institute’s First Amendment Center’s staff over the course of the semester as the student completes the project and submits it for publication consideration.

The participating professors are Professors Destro, Duggin, Fischer, Hartley, and Rienzi. Students interested in registering for one of these unique Newseum directed research projects are requested to first contact one of the above professors to communicate that interest. Each professor will consider the applicants who have contacted that professor and will choose from among them the student, or students, whom the professor has agreed to take on as a Newseum directed research student. These choices will be communicated to all of the applicants as expeditiously as possible. Once the professor agrees to accept a student, the student will complete the standard directed research Form, which can be found on the Registrar’s web site, obtain the professor’s signature on that form, and bring it to the Registrar who will then register the student for a two-credit directed research project.

**Application Procedures:**

- Only students who have completed Constitutional Law are eligible for this opportunity.

- Students are requested to communicate their interest by email to one of the above professors by no later than the close of business on Friday, November 8th.

- Email applications should include a statement from the applicant of the applicant’s grade in constitutional law, an unofficial transcript, and a resume. Applicants are encouraged, though not required, to add a short statement of the basis of their interest in this opportunity and any First Amendment issue the student may have in mind to research (though having already focused on a particular First Amendment issue is not required in order to be selected).

**NOTE:** Students who enroll in the following courses will also be offered the opportunity to use their work to support this effort with the Newseum:
a. First Amendment Problems of the Media (Prof. Waldron & Prof. Klitzman) [Thursday: 6:40-8:30 PM]

b. Advanced Issues in First Amendment Litigation (Prof. Destro) [Thursday: 1:10-3:00 PM]

c. Art Law (Professor Fischer).