

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS
Professor Means
Fall 2025

SYLLABUS

Welcome to Business Associations (LAWS 609). I will do my best to make your experience in this course worthwhile, and in turn I will expect from each of you full engagement and dedication to learning together as an intellectual community.

The course surveys the law of agency, partnerships, corporations, and LLCs.

Please read this syllabus carefully. It explains how the course will be taught and graded.

Course objectives:

The goal of this course is to help you develop a basic understanding of the theory, doctrine, and practice of business law. In addition to the goals below, I hope that you will further develop the analytical and professional skills to become a thoughtful practicing attorney who contributes to our society.

By the end of this course, I hope you will be able to:

1. understand the vocabulary of business law cases and corporate transactions;
2. read and analyze business law cases and statutes and apply them to novel fact patterns;
3. understand some of the central policy concerns in business law, and how business law policies may affect the economy and society; and
4. further develop your skills as a client counselor, particularly by practicing how to issue-spot in business situations and by understanding what motivates your client.

Required Text:

The required text for this course is ERIC A. CHIAPINELLI, CASES AND MATERIALS ON BUSINESS ENTITIES (Fifth Edition, 2022).

I plan to use Blackboard Collaborate to communicate with the class and to distribute additional course materials, including statutory supplements.

Readings will be assigned weekly.

First Day:

You will be asked to complete a seating chart. Please choose the seat you would like for the remainder of the semester.

Class Meetings and Attendance:

Class is scheduled to meet in Room 288 on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:40 to 4:05 p.m.

Class will start promptly at the scheduled time. To avoid disrupting the classroom atmosphere, please arrive on time and refrain from leaving early unless necessary. Regular attendance is essential for your legal education and is a law school requirement. Excessive absences may result in your being denied the opportunity to sit for the final exam.

Office Hours:

I will hold office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 1:15. Please also feel free to contact me via e-mail at meansb@law.sc.edu to make an appointment individually or in groups. In addition to discussing material we cover in class, I welcome the opportunity to get to know you, to discuss your career and professional goals, and to understand how the law school and I can help you achieve those goals.

Class Participation:

I expect everyone to participate in class discussion throughout the semester and encourage each of you to volunteer comments by raising your hand. In addition, each day I will call on several randomly selected students.

Grading:

You are responsible for all assigned readings and for the material covered in class. Your course grade will be determined by your performance on a 3-hour, in-class final examination. The exam will be closed book. I also reserve the right to adjust grades based on class attendance and participation.