

# North Hennepin Community College

## PLEG 1411: Litigation I

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course is the first part of a two-part Litigation course. This course presents a study of the processes and procedures undertaken in litigation and the role of the paralegal in a litigation practice. Students will study the requirements and applications of the Rules of Civil Procedure and the general rules of practice in District Court. Students will also study the various methods of alternative dispute resolution and their application to a litigation practice. Students will learn to prepare the documents essential to a litigation practice, such as complaints, discovery requests and discovery responses. This course also examines the ethical considerations relating to litigation.

Prerequisite: PLeg 1111

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/01/2009 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. a. State and federal court systems
- b. Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure as they relate to the following:
  1. pleading
  2. joinder of parties
  3. interrogatories, depositions and other methods of discovery; and
  4. summary judgment
- c. Service of process
- d. Tools of Discovery and Fact Finding Skills
- e. Causes of action related to the preparation of pleadings
- f. Affirmative Defenses and Preliminary Motions
- g. Ethics and professional responsibility.

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of general litigation process (ELO 1, Program Goal 1)
2. Prepare, plan and conduct both client and witness interviews (ELO 2, Program Goal 3, Program Goal 6)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the paralegal and of the lawyer in a litigation practice (ELO 4, Program Goal 1)
4. Demonstrate and illustrate a practical familiarity with civil procedure. (ELO 1, Program Goal 1)
5. Prepare selected litigation documents for a civil lawsuit (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 1, Program Goal 3)
6. Gather and organize discovery (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 6).
7. Demonstrate basic reasoning by deduction, by induction, and by analogy related to litigation matters (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 4).
8. Demonstrate an understanding of those ethical principles that govern a paralegals work in a litigation practice (ELO 3, Program Goal 2).
9. Differentiate and choose between civil and criminal investigation and discovery techniques (ELO 2, Program Goal 4).

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

None

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.
4. Integrative and Applied Learning--Including: Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general education, liberal studies, specialized studies and activities in the broader campus community.