RENEWABLE ENERGY
Syllabus
Spring Term 2011
University of Minnesota Law School

Professor Osofsky

Telephone: 5-1038
Office: Law School 338
Email: hosofsky@umn.edu

Class Time: Mon, 4-6 pm
Class Location: Mondale Hall 471
Office Hours: M/W, 12:10-1:10 pm

COURSE MATERIALS:

● THE LAW OF CLEAN ENERGY: EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES (Michael B. Gerrard, Ed.) (forthcoming 2011) (we will use a draft version, which is available for download on the course TWEN site).

● Additional On-Line Materials for Download through course TWEN site.

COURSE WEBSITE:
I will be maintaining a website for this course through The West Education Network (TWEN). This website will include the syllabus, links to web materials, class notes, and class list serves. Please make sure to check it regularly. You can access this site through lawschool.westlaw.com; click on TWEN and register yourself as a member of the class.

SUMMARY:
Concerns over climate change and cost-reduction have helped to drive increased interest in renewable energy development. This quasi-clinical course combines a substantive introduction to renewable energy law with practical experience in the area. It will begin by providing background on legal efforts to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency at different levels of government. That introduction will include federal and state laws that support and regulate renewable energy sources, as well as the way in which such energy is financed. The course then will turn to the primary types of renewable energy and the specific legal issues that each one poses. In particular, the course will consider legal regulation of wind power, solar power, biofuels, geothermal energy, and ocean/tidal-generated energy. The course will conclude with student presentations on their projects and reflections on future directions for the interaction between law and renewable energy development. Each class session will be divided between discussing that day’s topics in renewable energy law and learning from our class project assisting one or more nongovernmental and governmental organizations. The class will include expert guest speakers who will talk about their experiences working on renewable energy law. Grades will be based on students’ written and editorial work regarding the class project (90%), oral presentations (5%), and class participation (5%). This course will meet the senior writing requirement.
## PART I: INTRODUCTION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY REGULATION & FINANCING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan. 24</td>
<td>Introduction to Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Law/Introduction to Class Project</td>
<td>Assignment: --Gerrard, Chapters 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jan. 31</td>
<td>Energy Regulation: The Role of States and Localities/Topic Selection and Preliminary Research Strategies</td>
<td>Assignment: --Gerrard, Chapters 3 and 4&lt;br&gt; --Center for Social Inclusion, Energy Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Feb. 7</td>
<td>Tax and Non-Tax Approaches to Incentivizing Renewable Energy/Researching and Drafting Issues</td>
<td>Assignment: PROJECT TOPICS, PRELIMINARY OUTLINE, AND RESEARCH PLAN DUE AT START OF CLASS&lt;br&gt; --Gerrard, Chapters 7 and 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PART II: ISSUES FACING PARTICULAR TYPES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Feb. 28</td>
<td>Wind/Researching and Drafting Issues</td>
<td>Assignment: --Gerrard, Chapter 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Mar. 7</td>
<td>Solar/Researching and Drafting Issues</td>
<td>Assignment: --Gerrard, Chapter 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Mar. 21</td>
<td>Geothermal/Finalizing the Work Product</td>
<td>Assignment: ROUGH DRAFTS OF PROJECT WORK PRODUCT DUE&lt;br&gt; --Gerrard, Chapter 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mar. 28</td>
<td>Biofuels/Feedback on Rough Drafts and Finalizing the Work Product</td>
<td>Assignment: --Gerrard, Chapter 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MARCH 14**
9   Apr. 4   Hydropower/Finalizing the Work Product
Assignment:
--Gerrard, Chapter 20

10  Apr. 11  Tides, Waves, & Ocean Currents/Finalizing the Work Product
Assignment:
--Gerrard, Chapter 21

PART IV: PRESENTATIONS AND CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

11  Apr. 18  Presentations of Project Work Product/Finalizing the Work Product
Assignment:
Work on Final Drafts

12  Apr. 25  Presentations of Project Work Product/Finalizing the Work Product
Assignment:
Work on Final Drafts

13  Apr. 27  Concluding Reflections on the Future of Renewable Energy
Assignment:
FINAL DRAFTS OF PROJECT WORK PRODUCT DUE
--Gerrard, Chapters 9 and 22