

Cincinnati Christian University
Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences
PLAW 350 Nonprofit Law
3 Semester Hours Credit

“And the Lord answered me and said, write the vision and make it plain on tables, that he may run who readeth it” Habakkuk 2:2

*“Love is not patronizing and charity isn’t pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same—with charity you give love, so don’t just give money but reach out your hand.”
Mother Teresa*

“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones (or monuments). A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.” Shannon L. Alder

“I rather spend every Sunday of my life hanging off a cliff to rescue someone than spend one more time sitting in a pew next to hypocrites that talk about what they will do to better themselves and the world when they get around to it.” Shannon L. Alder

“Business! cried the Ghost, wringing his hands again, “Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!” Charles Dickens

Professor: Bill Frank, J.D., CPA (Inactive)
(513) 560-0021
billfrank30@gmail.com
bill.frank@ccuniversity.edu
3260 Milverton Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45248

Academic Term: Fall Semester 2018

Meeting Time: Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00am to 12:15pm

I. CCU Mission Statement

The mission of Cincinnati Christian University is to teach men and women to live by biblical principles and to equip and empower them with character, skills, insight, and vision to lead the Church and to impact society for Christ.

II. Course Description

A survey course navigating through the varied challenges in operations and government compliance experienced by today’s religious institutions, public charities, private foundations,

and educational, business, and social organizations committed to providing community services through a nonprofit structure.

III. Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to prepare students to be informed, responsible, and thoughtful Christian leaders in diverse nonprofit organizations. Throughout their lives students will probably be involved in the most common nonprofit areas including charities, churches, hospitals, missions, community service, and educational institutions. Moreover, this course is designed to be valuable for students whose career path will include interaction with the nonprofit sector as an employee, mission worker, grant seeker, donor, volunteer, board member, medical worker, journalist, or a paid or volunteer legal advisor to all of the above.

Over the course of the semester, students should complete the following:

- Develop a general understanding of the American (U.S.) nonprofit legal system.
- Discern fundamental rules of law relating to nonprofit organizations including: entity formation; nonprofit constraints; fund-raising restrictions; Board duties and ethical responsibilities.
- Express an appreciation for the extent to which a wide variety of legal requirements affect nonprofit business decision-making.
- Explore moral and ethical issues raised in a variety of legal situations related to nonprofit organizations and develop an understanding of the competing policy concerns often underlying the law.
- Demonstrate oral and written communications skills through class discussions, student writing assignments and student oral presentations to the class.

Students will be evaluated on their knowledge of nonprofit law along with their research, analysis and presentation skills through the following:

- Contributing to class discussions with instructor emphasis on critical thinking utilizing the Socratic Method.
- Legal case briefings and answering casebook questions.
- Field observation/interview with a local nonprofit organization- written summary and class presentation.
- Research project- 12 page paper on issues of current interest in nonprofit administration or regulation.

IV. Required textbooks

NONPROFIT LAW: THE CYCLE OF A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

Pub. Date: February 2017

Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business

Author: Betsy Schmidt

Edition: Second
Paperback

Joan Garry's Guide to Nonprofit Leadership: Because Nonprofits are Messy

Pub.Date: 2017
Publisher: Wiley
Author: Joan Garry
Edition: First
Paperback

**I may also supply additional materials throughout the semester.*

V. Course Units

1. Starting The Nonprofit Organization
2. Raising Money
3. Issues While Running The Organizations
4. Ending The Organization

VI. Time Commitments

Due to the size of the class, we will be in a roundtable discussion format with considerable contribution from students. Students will come to class prepared to discuss the legal opinions contained in the text along with assigned questions as they apply to the material. I will be employing the Socratic Method as used in a law school class. The texts are a law school book and a book offering a glimpse into practical reality.

This is a reading intensive course with unfamiliar terminology. It is important you have a dictionary to look up terms and take notes as you read the material. Writing, not just highlighting key terms, will greatly add to your retention. As this is technical material, reading 15 to 20 pages a day as opposed to reading the whole assignment the night before class will keep you on schedule.

There will be guest speakers as well as at least one field trip to a nonprofit organization.

VIII. Disclaimers

