

The Legal Environment of Business

Research Report on Issues in Corporate Law

Summary:

Due March 24th, 2020 by 11:59 pm.

It is to be submitted in **drop box** on Black Board System.

Lateness will be penalized at 10% per day unless permission has been granted as a result of meaningful issues beyond the student's control.

This assignment is worth **20% of your grade**.

Assignment Purpose:

To examine a regime of regulation or conflict resolution related to any aspect of business law in Canada. Topics must be approved by the professor, but no reasonable topic will be refused. Let the professor help so that you do not consider a topic too large or with too many confounding perspectives that make it unmanageable.

You will be directed to focus on the legal aspects which effect the conduct of business. Although it is impossible to consider topics without public policy considerations, your research shall be focused on the practical legal aspects of a business-related topic. A discussion, critique and recommendations should follow an accurate description of the law and its authorities.

You are encouraged to consider topics related to your area of specialization including human resources, marketing, or accounting and taxation. Also, corporate governance and sustainability topics, including the nature of corporations, executive compensation, environmental liabilities/responsibilities, limited liability, and intellectual property, are all good topics as well.

A narrow focus of an area you may work in, is an acceptable topic. It does not have to be very broad. More specific is better. No relevant topic will be refused. These are important concepts for your future as you will discover through the course.

You may also find current issues to be enjoyable. In such a case, you will examine the historical legal development, policy issues behind the development, and offer critique of the legal systems response. The municipal law, political control of education curriculum, legalization of cannabis,

the increase/decrease of minimum wage, net neutrality, crypto currencies, and recent changes to labour law are examples of such issues.

Review the legal framework, discuss the cases and consider the forces (policies) behind possible changes. Remember the distinction between Law and Policy.

Many people agree in policy and disagree about the legal approach and regime used to regulate behaviours and relationships. Your report should spend time discussing the policy foundations for any legal system/regime. It is then appropriate to critique the system employed based on unwanted impacts and repercussions.

Format:

This is a report and not an essay.

Use a memo format.

Please use a word document format – it works best with the Blackboard feedback tool.

Use a consistent citation system. MLA or APA are acceptable.

Please note the specific nature of legal citation. Use the textbook for examples.

When referencing non-legal text, end notes or footnotes are both acceptable.

A Selected Bibliography at the end, with all sources used, is required. This will include commentaries and articles you have found.

Please remember a website address is not a citation.

Appendices with selected statutes and regulations can be useful in some cases. Do not waste a great deal of time repeating statutes in your paper. Please focus on the key provisions and use an appendix to hold the necessary complete dicta.

The report shall be a minimum of 2000 words and maximum of 3500 words.

Please use a 1½ line spacing.

Consider the following Table of Contents as a guide.

Introduction (one to two pages)

What is the specific question or area you are going to explore?

Is there a case you wish to focus on?

Why does it interest you?

What do you think are the big questions?

Suggest a question to focus your report around.

The Law (5 to 6 pages usually)

Describe the area of law you are approaching.

Are there many pieces of legislation? Are there very few legislative guides.

Start with the statutory authority.

Cite, select and discuss the legislation generally.
Pick the sections of the legislation that are most important.
Describe, interpret and discuss them.
Try to state the law clearly.
Turn to the cases which have interpreted them? Which are the leading cases with the highest authority? Briefly describe their facts and their holding. Discuss the key rationale/ratio for each. (Only a few leading cases are necessary. It is usually one, two or three cases.)
Using both cases and statute summarize the substantive law.

The Policy (2 to 3 pages)

What is the purpose of the law?
What are the social interests being protected or compromised?
What should the policy interests be?
How does the law help/contribute to a meaningful policy outcome?

Critique/Recommendations (2 to 3 pages)

Is the policy being supported by the law?
Does the law fail, or succeed, in its attempt to meaningfully regulate and/or resolve?
What would you suggest as a change to the regime?
What have other scholars recommended as changes to the system?
Briefly suggest what the future holds in the area and what the future of the law might look like to best accommodate that future.

Steps:

The first part of this assignment will be a **Proposal Outline**, due **January 21, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.**

In this Proposal Outline assignment, you will provide an overview of the research conducted to date and bring forward any questions for the professor to assist you in streamlining your work and staying focused on a meaningful topic and report. It is hoped that this preliminary step will keep you on track and assist in the time management of the production of the essay.

This Proposal Outline is explained in separate instructions and is worth 10% of your final grade. Please do not treat it lightly. It is the chance to ensure success on the essay.

Office Hours:

The professor will be available each week between 5 and 6 pm in the GCS 366. Sometimes the professor will be there earlier. You are free to drop by, but you may be asked to wait. You can schedule an appointment with the professor on Tuesdays- and sometimes other days- by email.

In Weeks 5 and 6, the professor will arrange more office hours to give you the opportunity to discuss your topic prior to break week.

If you are coming looking for feedback, please bring a printed copy of your document. The professor will offer written feedback right on the document, so it is not lost.