Exam Number \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

Instructor : Professor Thaddeus Pope

Course Title : Health Law: Quality & Liability

Section : Law 9322, Section 1

Format : Take Home Midterm Exam

Total Time for Exam : 6 hours

Total Number of Pages : 6 pages

#### **Reference Materials Allowed**

Open Book (all reference materials allowed)

### **Take-Home Exam Instructions**

1. Please know your **correct Fall 2013 exam number** and include this number at the top of each page of your exam answer (for example, in a header). To locate your exam number, go to www.hamline.edu and follow the steps below. A graphic guide to locating your exam number is attached to these instructions.

Click on Logins in the header.

Go to Piperline

Log in to the secure area

**Enter your Student ID and PIN** 

**Click Student Services** 

**Click Registration** 

Click Student Detail Schedule

Select the appropriate term from the drop down menu

Exam Numbers are listed below Total Credit Hours at the top of the page

- 2. Confirm that you are using and have typed the **correct exam number** on your exam document.
- 3. You may download the exam from the course TWEN site any time after 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2013. All exams must be submitted within 6 hours of download. But, in any case, all exams must be submitted by the end of the midterm exam period, i.e. by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2013. Therefore, you will want to download your exam no later than 7:59 a.m. on Monday, October 14, 2013, to ensure that you have the full allowed 6 hours to complete your exam.
- 4. Write your answers to all three parts of the exam in a word processor. Save your document as a **single PDF file** before uploading to TWEN. Use your exam number as the name for the PDF file.

### **Instructions Specific to This Examination**

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. **Honor Code**: While you are taking this exam, you are subject to the Hamline University Code of Conduct. You may not discuss it with anyone until after the end of the entire exam period. It is a violation of the Honor Code to share the exam questions. Shred or delete the exam questions immediately upon completion of the exam. They will be reposted after the end of the exam period.
- 2. **Competence**: Accepting this examination is a certification that you are capable of completing the examination. Once you have accepted the examination, you will be held responsible for completing the examination.

- 3. **Exam Packet**: This exam consists of **6 pages**, including these instruction pages. Please make sure that your exam is complete.
- 4. **Identification**: Write your exam number on the top of each page of your exam answer.
- 5. **Anonymity**: The exams are graded anonymously. Do not put your name or anything else that may identify you (except for your exam number) on the exam. **Failure to include your correct exam number will result in a 10-point deduction.**
- 6. **Total Time**: Your completed exam is due within 6 hours of downloading it. If your exam is uploaded more than 6 hours after downloading the exam, your exam grade will be **lowered by one point** for every minute in excess of the 6 hours. If the timestamp on your uploaded exam indicates that you have exceeded the 6-hout limit by more than 15 minutes, the situation may be referred for a Code of Conduct investigation and potential discipline. Please save sufficient time to successfully upload your exam.
- 7. **Timing:** The exam has been written as a 90-minute exam. A student could write basically complete answers to all the questions in 90 minutes. But since this is a take-home exam, you will want to take some extra time (perhaps one hour) to outline your answers and consult your course materials. You will also want to take some extra time (perhaps one hour) to revise and polish your answers, such that you will not be submitting a "first draft." In short, while this is a 6-hour take home, you really need not spend more than three hours on this exam.
- 8. **Scoring**: There are 75 total points on the exam. The final exam comprises 25% of your overall course grade, 75 of the 300 total course points.
- 9. **Open Book**: This is an OPEN book exam. You may use any written materials, including, but not limited to: any required and recommended materials, any handouts from class, PowerPoint slides, class notes, and your own personal or group outlines.
- 10. **Additional Research**: While you may use any materials that you have collected for this class, you are neither expected **nor are you permitted** to do any online or library research (e.g. on Lexis, Westlaw, Google, reference materials) to answer the exam questions.
- 11. **Format**: The exam consists of three parts:

PART ONE comprises a 35 point essay question.

PART TWO comprises a 25 point essay question.

PART THREE comprises a 15 point essay question.

12. **Grading**: All exams will receive a raw score from zero to 75. The raw score is meaningful only relative to the raw score of other students in the class. Your course letter grade is computed by summing the midterm, final, and quiz scores. I will post an explanatory memo and a model answer to TWEN a few weeks after the exam.

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. **Submission**: In your exam document create clearly marked separate sections for each of the problems:
  - Essay 1
  - Essay 2
  - Essay 3
- 2. **Pagination:** Start each essay on a separate page.

- 3. **Outlining Your Answer**: I strongly encourage you to use at least one-fourth of the allotted time per question to outline your answers on scrap paper before beginning to write. Do this because you will be graded not only on the substance of your answer but also on its clarity and conciseness. In other words, organization, precision, and brevity count. If you run out of insightful things to say about the issues raised by the exam question, stop writing until you think of something. Tedious repetition, regurgitations of law unrelated to the facts, or rambling about irrelevant issues will negatively affect your grade.
- 4. **Answer Format**: This is important. Use headings and subheadings. Use short single-idea paragraphs (leaving a blank line between paragraphs). Do not completely fill the page with text. Leave white space between sections and paragraphs.
- 5. **Answer Content**: Address all relevant issues that arise from and are implicated by the fact pattern and that are responsive to the "call" of the question. Do not just summarize all the facts or all the legal principles relevant to an issue. Instead, apply the law you see relevant to the facts you see relevant. Take the issues that you identify and organize them into a coherent structure. Then, within that structure, examine issues and argue for a conclusion.
- 6. **Citing Cases**: You are welcome but not required to cite cases. While it is sometimes helpful to the reader and a way to economize on words, do not cite case names as a complete substitute for legal analysis. For example, do not write: "Plaintiff should be able to recover under A v. B." Why? What is the rule in that case? What are the facts in the instant case that satisfy that rule?
- 7. **Cross-Referencing**: You may reference your own previous analysis (e.g. B's claim against C is identical to A's claim against C, because \_\_\_." But be very clear and precise what you are referencing. As in contract interpretation, ambiguity is construed against the drafter.
- 8. **Balanced Argument**: Facts rarely perfectly fit rules of law. So, recognize the key weaknesses in your position and make the argument on the other side.
- 9. **Additional Facts**: If you think that an exam question fairly raises an issue but cannot be answered without additional facts, state clearly those facts (reasonably implied by, suggested by, or at least consistent with, the fact pattern) that you believe to be necessary to answer the question. Do not invent facts out of whole cloth.

### **Exam Misconduct**

The Code of Conduct prohibits dishonest acts in an examination setting. Unless specifically permitted by the exam or proctor, prohibited conduct includes:

- Discussing the exam with another student
- Giving, receiving, or soliciting aid
- Referencing unauthorized materials
- Reading the questions before the examination starts
- Exceeding the examination time limit
- Ignoring proctor instructions

# **Essay Question 1**

- 35 points
- Limit your answer to 1500 words.

On October 3, 2013, Tracy, who was 36 weeks pregnant, experienced mild labor contractions throughout the morning. So, she went to the Minnesota Memorial Medical Center. Her pregnancy had been uncomplicated, and an initial examination at MMMC revealed a reassuring fetal heart rate. But a few hours after Tracy's arrival, a fetal monitor indicated a precipitous drop in the fetal heart rate. The attending physician obtained Tracy's verbal consent to perform an emergency caesarean section, but did not explain the nature and risks involved with a caesarean section. Tracy was quickly taken to an operating room while her husband waited in a postoperative birthing center room. Tracy was soon unconscious from general anesthesia.

Lucas was delivered at 6:13 p.m. without a heart rate or spontaneous respiration, and with an Apgar score of zero. The operating physician discovered that Tracy had suffered a placental abruption. A code team immediately began resuscitation efforts on Lucas. Every two minutes a member of the code team checked for a heartbeat. After 10 minutes, the operating physician ordered that the resuscitation be stopped.

The physician explained that while stopping, pausing, or delaying resuscitation would result in Lucas' death, his survival was unlikely in any case. While there was no applicable MMMC guideline, the attending noted that in the main published study, only 92 of 100 infants with Lucas' clinical condition survived after 10 minutes. And the eight infants that did survive were very impaired, with severe cerebral palsy, mental retardation, seizure disorders, microcephaly, and respiratory distress. While the physician did not consult with Tracy or her husband, in the physician's professional judgment, stopping resuscitation was the appropriate course of action.

Assess claims that Tracy and her husband have against MMMC and the attending physician both for EMTALA and for informed consent.

\* An Apgar score is determined by evaluating the newborn baby on five simple criteria on a scale from zero to two, then summing up the five values. The resulting Apgar score ranges from zero to 10.

	00016			
Sign	0	1	2 > 100 beats/min Good, strong cry Active motion	
Heart rate	Absent	Slow (< 100 beats/min)		
Respirations	Absent	Weak cry, hypoventilation		
Muscle tone	Limp	Some flexion		
Reflex irritability	No response	Grimace	Cry or active withdrawal	
Color	Blue or pale	Body pink, extremities blue	Completely pink	
	·	* * *		

## **Essay Question 2**

- 25 points
- Limit your answer to 1000 words.

Plaintiff is the surviving spouse of Christy Hutchinson. On October 5, 2013, at around 11:30 p.m., Christy went to the Memorial Hospital emergency department in active labor. Thirty minutes later, lab results showed that Christy was suffering from XYZ syndrome. Approximately fifteen minutes later, Christy gave birth to Rachael. Shortly thereafter, the delivering physician learned that Christy was suffering from XYZ syndrome. Because this physician knew that XYZ syndrome can be fatal if not properly treated in an intensive care unit (ICU), she ordered Christy to be moved from the Memorial emergency department to the Memorial ICU.

But three hours after the delivery and the detection of the XYZ syndrome, Christy still had not been "transferred" to the ICU because a bed was not immediately available. By that time (2:30 a.m. on October 6), Memorial administrative staff determined that Christy was uninsured. Shortly thereafter, another emergency department attending physician "transferred" Christy from the emergency department to Memorial room B157, for 48 hours of postpartum care but not for stabilization of her XYX syndrome. When this "transfer" occurred, Memorial staff knew that Christy was suffering from life-threatening emergency medical conditions caused by XYZ syndrome which required stabilization in an ICU. Christy died at Memorial on October 6, 2013.

Assess Plaintiff's EMTALA claims against any and all parties.

### **Essay Question 3**

- 15 points
- Limit your answer to 1000 words.

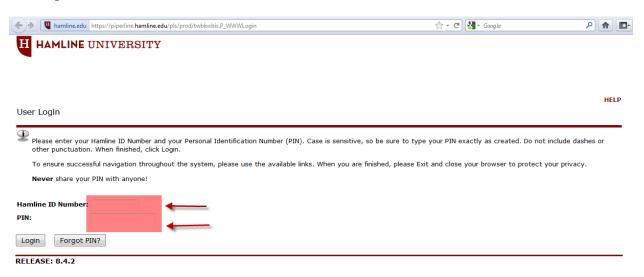
Brendan sought medical assistance in relation to a very serious and debilitating condition of his lumbar spine. Dr. Goff, a Minnesota neurosurgeon, performed a surgical procedure on Brendan. The surgical procedure had certain inherent risks. One risk was a 1-in-300 chance of temporary and moderate local damage to nerves in the thighs, "femoral nerve neurapraxia." This results from lying face down on an operating table for an extended period of time. Another risk was a 1-in-15 chance of permanent and catastrophic paralysis resulting from damage to the spinal nerves.

The surgical procedure was unsuccessful. Brendan's lumbar spine condition did not improve. The first risk materialized. Brendan sustained femoral nerve neurapraxia. This left him in moderate pain for a limited period of time. The second risk did not materialize.

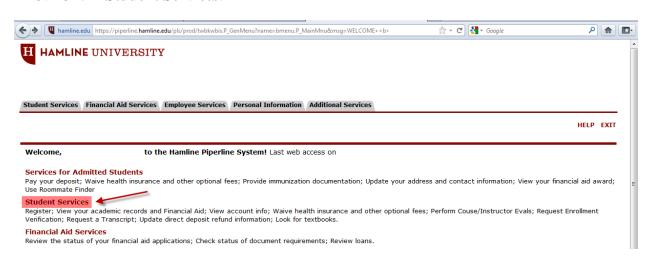
Assess any claims that Brendan can plausibly assert.

# **END OF EXAM**

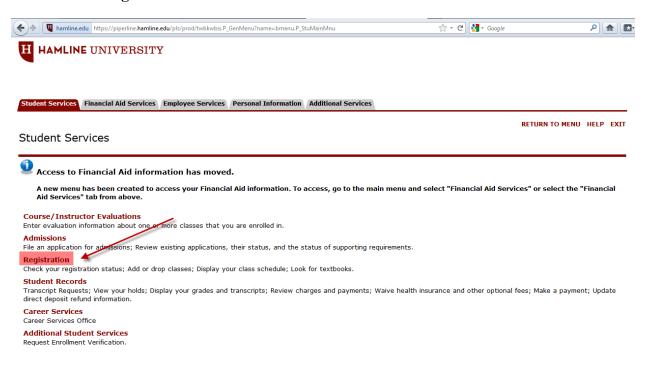
4. Enter your **Hamline ID Number** (this is the seven digit number starting with a nine) and your **PIN.** Click "**Login**." Remember that this is case sensitive. (If this is your first time logging into Piperline, you will be taken to a page where you will create a new password.)



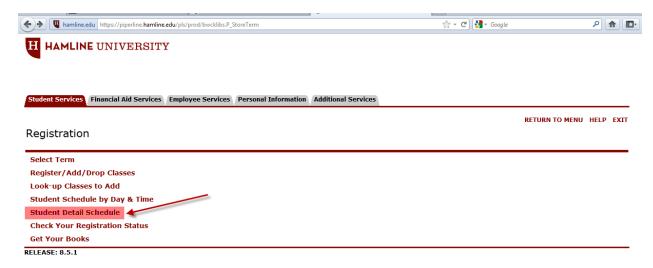
5. Click "Student Services."



6. Click "Registration."

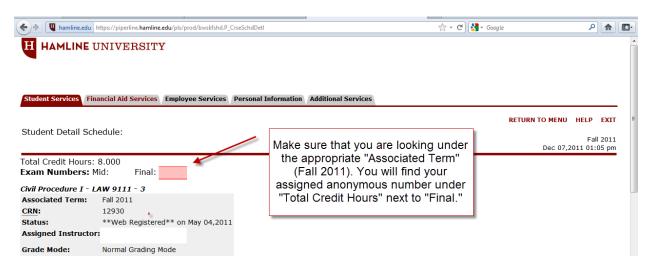


7. Click "Student Detail Schedule."



8. You will then need to select the appropriate term from a drop-down menu (Fall 2011).

9. Your **Final Exam Number** will be located under the **Total Credit Hours** at the top of the page.

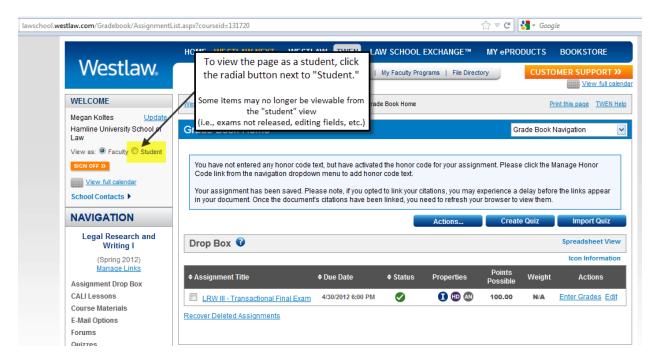


Everyone needs their final exam number to take the exam.

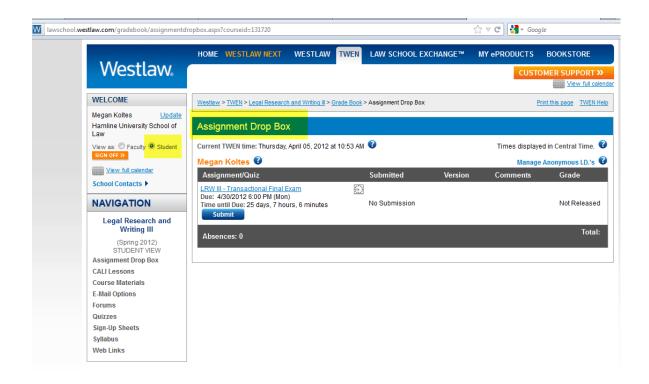
You will use the same exam number for all of your exams.

### TWEN - View as a Student

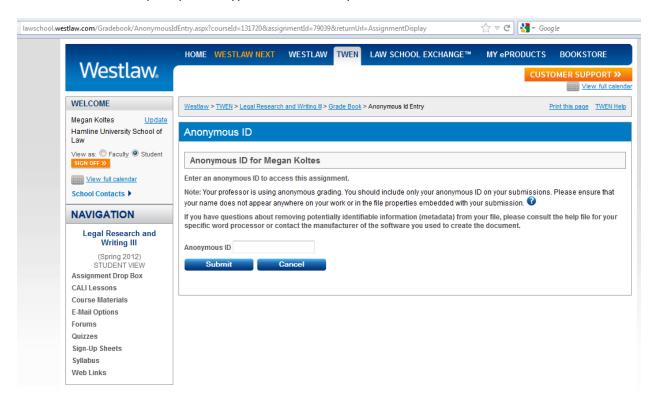
- 1. Log on to Westlaw as normal (<u>www.lawschool.westlaw.com</u>).
- 2. Select the TWEN tab.
- 3. Under your log-in information in the upper left corner, select the option to view as a student.



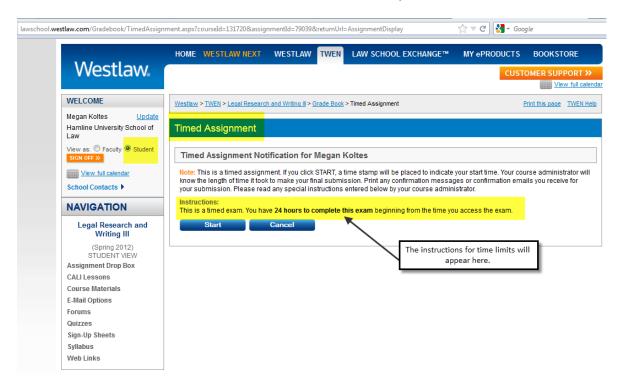
4. Once an exam has hit the time and date on which it should become available, students will then be able to see it in the "Assignment Drop Box."



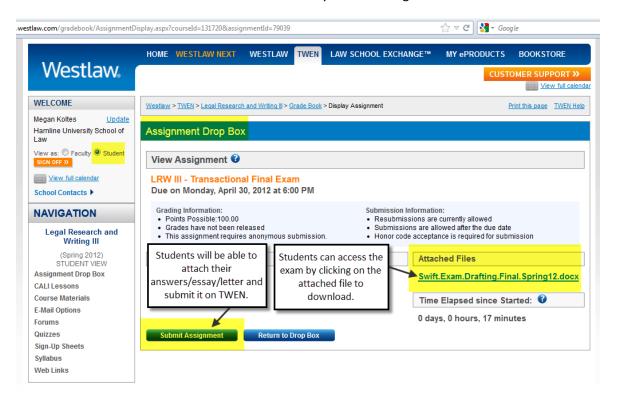
5. The student will be prompted to type in his/her anonymous I.D. to access the exam.



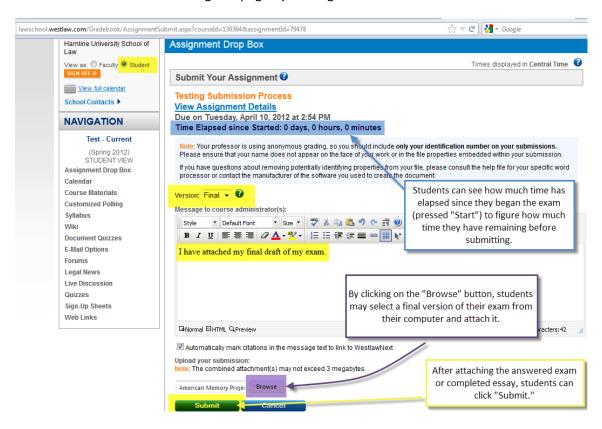
6. If the exam is a timed exam, the student will be given instructions stating as such. (The exam does not boot students out after the maximum amount of time; rather, the TWEN time stamps when a student accesses an exam and when a student submits an exam.)



7. The student will be able to access the exam by downloading the attached file.



8. The student will be able to attach their submission by clicking "Submit Assignment" and attaching their submission on the following webpage by clicking "Browse."



9. After submitting the attached exam/essay, students can view the time stamps on their assignment on the proceeding webpage. This will show when the student first hit the "Start" button and when the student hit the "Submit" button. (This is crucial for timed tests.)

