

Public Law Course Recent Seminar Topics

The structure of the Federal Government—the well know and the less well know part of the government
which participate in the making of public policy

The process of making Public Law—including the extra governmental organizations

Refusal of Medical Treatment/Withdrawal of Medical Treatment

Freedom of speech—including symbolic speech—flag burning, tinker case—armband protests

Church/State issues—“Under God” cases, use of public facilities by religious groups, 10 commandments on
public property

Freedom of the press—prior restraint issues and defamation remedies for criticism of government officials

Second amendment—Supreme Court cases on the right to bear arms

Same sex marriage-- Full Faith and Credit in the Constitution and the Defense of Marriage Act issues

Presidential Power in national security cases

Fourth amendment—warrantless wiretaps

Fifth Amendment--DNA admissibility

Sixth Amendment—right to “assistance of counsel” in state felony cases

Physician Assisted Suicide—Oregon/Washington laws and Federal law

“Right to Die” cases—the Supreme Court’s consideration of conflicting lower court opinions

Teri Schiavo case—Federal Intervention and advanced directives

Copyrights Patents and Trademarks—The intellectual property triad

Employment discrimination and the role of the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission—Title VII protections and their possible expansion

Genetic discrimination—obtaining and using genetic information in hiring and promotion

Voting Rights Act –renewal of the Act

Immigration Reform—conflicting views of what is in the best interest of the U.S.

Federal Election Law--- Citizens United case and direct corporate and labor contributions to campaigns