LEGAL PROCESSES IN URBAN PLANNING, USP 553

Instructor: Jeffrey G. Condit

Phone: 503-205-2305  
E-mail: jeff.condit@millernash.com.

Course Meeting Dates: Four classes every other Wednesday evening, beginning the first week of Spring Term

TIME: 6:40 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

Office Hours: Please call or e-mail for an appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an overview of legal concepts and procedures applicable to the review and approval of land use decisions in the urban planning context. It is intended as a practical skills course to equip an urban planner with the legal and procedural background necessary to assist clients or local governments in navigating the local land use process and to produce clear and legally defensible decisions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The overall course objective is to develop an understanding of legal concepts and practices applicable to local land use decision-making. Key topics include the nature of the quasi-judicial land use process, procedural requirements to ensure a fair hearing and level playing field for applicants and opponents, drafting defensible findings to support a decision, imposition of conditions of approval in a lawful and constitutional manner, and understanding and avoiding potential liability and substantive due process claims.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION
The primary learning method is interactive lecture. Attendance is important in order to get the most of the class and to understand the concepts so that you can address the assignments. If you must miss a class, I recommend having a classmate record the lecture. Each student will be expected to complete a short paper following each class that addresses the concepts learned in the class. Each paper will be posted to D2L on of the date of the class. Papers are due by midnight on the following Wednesday between classes, and can be submitted by e-mail or dropbox, set up on the course website. I will grade the papers between classes and
we will discuss the papers at the beginning of the next class. I am happy to schedule a time after Class IV to discuss the last paper and get general feedback regarding the course for those who interested.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Reading assignments for each class are uploaded on D2L. The assignments are primarily provided for background information and additional assistance for the papers. The significant issues will be covered in the lectures, as set forth in the course outline.

**GRADING**

Your grade will be based upon your scores on the papers.

**MY BACKGROUND**

I am an attorney and partner at Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP. A significant portion of my practice involves representation of cities, counties and private parties in various land use matters, from major urban growth boundary expansions and land use appeals to day-to-day permitting issues. Prior to joining the firm, I served as the in-house City Attorney for the City of Lake Oswego, Oregon, and, prior to that, in-house County Counsel for Benton County, Oregon. My full biography can be found at http://www.millernash.com/jeffrey-g-condit/.