

CERCLA Law and Policy

Fall 2017

Professor Mears

(Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:10 to 3:25 in Debevoise Hall-Map Room)

First and Second Assignments

Course Description: This course will allow students to delve into the legal and policy issues associated with the regulation of hazardous waste and toxic substances. Students will explore the nature of assessing the public health and environmental risks associated with hazardous waste and toxic substances and then review the range of legal doctrines and statutes through which government agencies attempt to manage those risks. Students will study the ways in which private litigation and public laws have evolved to respond to these risks with a special focus on the role of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund or CERCLA) in addressing the challenges of cleaning up contaminated sites.

Required Text: The Regulation of Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes (Second Edition)
Applegate, Laitos, Gaba and Sachs

Please Read and Be Prepared to Discuss:

August 28: Pages 1-24 and a news article (your choice) relating to a current issue involving toxic substances or hazardous waste

August 30: Pages 24-46 (Risk Management; Cost-Benefit Analysis)