

## Independent Legal Research Request Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester in which you seek ILR enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Supervising Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of Research Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the subject duplicate a current seminar? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, were you excluded by size limit from enrollment in the seminar? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have completed your fourth semester of Law School by the semester in which you seek ILR enrollment (see Rule 3-2-6 below)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit number requested:** \_\_\_\_\_ (generally two credits for a paper of seminar length and quality, but in exceptional circumstances three credits can be approved; see Rule 3-2-6 below. Also note that ILR credits will count towards the Rule 36 cap: "Credit Cap for Coursework outside of the Law School and for Courses and Activities that Do Not Involve a Substantial Classroom Component. No student shall receive more than 14 credit hours toward the JD degree from co-curricular activities such as journals, moot court, and trial competitions; Independent Legal Research; courtroom observation courses; externships; or coursework completed in another department, school or college of the University or at another institution of higher learning (except as otherwise provided in these rules)." Please verify that the number of credits you are applying for will not put you over the cap, as any credits exceeding that cap cannot be counted towards graduation.)

---

### Law School Rule § 3-2-6 which governs Independent Research approval:

#### §3-2-6 Independent Legal Research Credit

##### [i §3-2-6 Amended 3/18/11](#)

Up to three Legal Research credit hours may be earned by a student in or after the fifth semester in Law School through pursuit of a research interest not otherwise open because a seminar is not offered in that subject, or where the student is prevented from taking a seminar in that subject by size limitations on seminar enrollment, or where the student already took the relevant seminar, under the following conditions:

A. The student desiring credit must, before enrolling for it, secure the consent of a faculty member willing to supervise the project; consent shall be obtained in writing, on a form furnished by the Registrar's Office that includes a detailed description of the research paper. One copy of the completed form will be delivered to the faculty member who will supervise the project, one copy will be filed in the Dean's Office, and one copy will be given to the Registrar.

B. In order to qualify for Independent Legal Research credits the student must produce a research paper at least equivalent to a seminar research paper, and as in the case of seminar papers the normal expectation is that a draft will be submitted, subjected to thorough critique by the faculty member supervising the project, and redrafted. Further redrafts may be required by the faculty member before a grade is assigned to the work.

C. Up to two graded credit hour will be given for such work, in the discretion of the supervising faculty member. In extraordinary circumstances, and with the permission of the supervising faculty member, a student may petition to receive a total of three credits for a single project. Such a petition should only be granted by the Dean's Office for projects of extraordinary length and complexity.

D. Nothing herein shall be taken to prevent students in their fourth semester of law school from obtaining approval of a project and beginning work on it, with a view toward completion and enrollment for credit in a subsequent semester.

**Note for both student and supervising faculty member: a grade of “Incomplete” will be assigned if the Registrar’s office does not receive a grade by the grading deadline for the semester in which the student has enrolled in ILR credit. In some cases, unresolved Incompletes can affect student rankings and the registrar’s ability to certify to the bar that a student has completed the requirements necessary to graduate. Law School Rule 3-3-4D requires that an Incomplete be converted to an F by the end of the following semester if the coursework is not completed at that time.**

*I have reviewed and agree to the above:*

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I have reviewed and agree to the above:*

**Supervising Professor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_