

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW CENTER

Rights of Domestic Partners

Professor Thomas F. Coleman

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rights of Domestic Partners LAW 599H (3 Units) Prof. Coleman

This course explores legal, social, economic, and public policy issues associated with the emerging area of "couples rights" (gay and nongay unmarried couples). Not only will students obtain a comprehensive overview of legal controversies involved in substantive "domestic partnership" law (e.g., right to live together; right of survivor to sue for wrongful death; Hardwick v. Bowers constitutional right to engage in private sexual conduct; etc.), but students also will learn to develop practical strategies designed to extend family benefits to nonmarital relationships (e.g., revised employee benefit plans, such as sick leave, bereavement leave, and health care coverage; consumer "spousal" discounts extended to couples by insurance companies and membership clubs, etc).

This course is unique, inasmuch as it is a practicum (supervised practical application of legal theory) affiliated with the Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity. Each student will develop a "real world" strategy to implement one or more recommendation(s) from the final report of the Task Force involving domestic partnership rights, and draft a memorandum detailing the strategy plan.

Students will be invited to attend (optional) a special ceremony in May 1988, at which Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Woo will present the final report of the Task Force to several hundred leaders of business, religious, educational, legal, and other communities.

A schedule of classes and assigned reading list is attached.

RIGHTS OF DOMESTIC PARTNERS

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No:	Date:	Topic:	Assigned Reading:
1.	1-12	Introduction	None
2.	1-19	I: Define Family II: Class Project (Assignments)	Sections of TF Report: Definition; Demographics; Domestic Partners; All Recommendations 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
3.	1-26	I: Creating a Family II: Class Project (Planning)	Procreation: Skinner v. Oklahoma Griswold v. Connecticut Eisenstadt v. Baird Row v. Wade 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
4.	2-2	I: Creating a Family II: Class Project (Updates)	Marriage: Zablocki v. Redhail Califano v. Jobst Adams v. Howerton Loving v. Virginia 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
5.	2-9	I: Creating a Family II: Class Project (Meet with Implement Committee)	Adoption & Foster Care: In re Robert Paul P. New Hampshire Legislation
6.	2-16	I: Creating a Family II: Class Project (Updates)	Household Families: Santa Barbara v. Adamson Moore v. East Cleveland Belle Terre v. Borass 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
7.	2-23	I: Domestic Partners II. Class Project (Meet with Implement Committee)	Intimate Association: People v. Onofre Commonwealth v. Stowell Bowers v. Hardwick Michael M. v. Super. Ct.

8. 3-8 I: Domestic Partners **Contractual Rights:**
Marvin v. Marvin
Taylor v. Fields
Hewitt v. Hewitt
Morone v. Morone
II: Class Project (Updates) 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
9. 3-15 I: Domestic Partners **Employment:**
North Muskegon v. Briggs
Hollenbaugh v. Free Library
DFEH v. Boy Scouts
Crosier v. UPS
II: Class Project (Meet with Implement Committee)
10. 3-22 I: Domestic Partners **Employee Benefits:**
Norman v. U.I.A. Board
Hinman v. DPA
McGregor v. UIA Board
Donovan v. Worker Comp. Bd.
II: Class Project (Updates) 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
11. 3-29 I: Domestic Partners **Municipal Ordinances:**
San Francisco (vetoed)
Berkeley (adopted)
West Hollywood (adopted)
Los Angeles (proposed)
II: Class Project (Meet with Implement Committee)
12. 4-5 I: Domestic Partners **Survivor's Rights:**
Butcher v. Sup. Ct.
Kately v. Wilkinson
Ledger v. Tippitt
Elden v. Sheldon
II: Class Project (Updates) 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm
13. 4-12 I: Domestic Partners **Child Custody:**
Welman v. Welman
Jarrett v. Jarrett
Ashling v. Ashling
Constant A. v. Paul C.
In re Birdsall
Opinion of the Justices
14. 4-19 Oral Presentations and Papers Submitted
15. 5-19 Task Force Reception (optional attendance)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

\$10.00 Report of the Task Force on Family Diversity
(City of Los Angeles, 1988)

Includes sections on the following topics: families in America, families in California, families in Los Angeles, public policy and the definition of family, insurance discrimination, family violence and abuse, housing and homelessness, employee benefits, child care, families with elders, families with disabled members, immigrant families, domestic partnership families, school programs and curricula, media.

\$10.00 Report of the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family
(State of California, 1989)

Includes information on the following topics: employee benefits, child care, elder care, parenting education, health care, domestic partnerships, low-income families, basic tenets of family policy, defining family functions.

\$10.00 Amicus Brief: Family Service America et al.
(Braschi v. Stahl, New York Court of Appeal, 1989)

Includes information on the following topics: definition of family in American jurisprudence; legislative definitions of family in New York; judicial decisions involving the definition of family in New York; constitutional considerations in defining family; demographics regarding families in New York City.

HOW TO ORDER

To order these publications, contact: Family Diversity Project, P.O. Box 65756, Los Angeles, CA 90065 / (213) 258-8955.

A donation of \$10 per document is requested. Make checks payable to I.S.H.R. (Institute for the Study of Human Resources, a non-profit operating foundation).