

Introduction to Legal Studies

Spring 2007

Reading and Discussion Questions for Thursday, May 3rd

Ewick and Silbey, *The Common Place of Law* (chapter six)

The reading for Thursday's class follows along the same path as the previous session. We will continue studying and discussing Ewick & Silbey's *Common Place of Law*, this time attempting to understand what they label the "Against the Law" vision of legality. Thus, having done the hard work of getting down what the authors mean by such terms as "normativity," "capacity," "constraint," and "time & space" you can study this chapter as it defines these terms in relation to the third of three forms of legality.

1. Write some notes in the grid below to describe the "Against the Law" vision of legality as it fits in these categories (obviously, take another piece of paper to do this if necessary):

Normativity	Constraint
Capacity	Time & Space

2. Think of a story of transition – where you or someone else (real or a fictional character) has undergone a transformation from viewing legality one way (say, "Against the Law") to viewing legality another way (say, "Before the Law"). What are the factors that made someone change their way of understanding legality? In what ways did the person retain other visions of legality in interpreting their experience(s)?