Spring 2006

Due Process and the Criminal Trial – SYLLABUS

Reading Materials –

We, The Jury – Jeffrey Abramson
A Trial by Jury – D. Graham Burnett
4th, 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution

The first part of the semester will focus on the anatomy of a criminal trial. Procedural due process, which is the basis for many of the elements of a criminal trial, will be covered in a lecture format. Each student will be expected to be familiar with the due process rights found in the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Each student will be required to attend one day of a criminal proceeding in the Superior Court of Massachusetts or a criminal proceeding in a similar court of a different jurisdiction. Each student will be required to submit a paper which details the application of the due process rights observed in the judicial proceeding attended.

The second part of the semester will focus on the application of due process rights to the criminal trial process. Specific topics of controversy will be covered in a lecture/discussion format.

There will be a midterm and a final exam.

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