**Drafting Construction and Design Contracts and Settlement Agreements Guide**

The sample syllabus contemplates a course for law students that offers either two or three credits satisfying the accreditation standards for an upper-writing course. Nine topical lessons use reading assignments to focus class discussions on drafting contracts in the construction industry context. Each lesson also incorporates one or more ideas for minor writing assignments during the term. The course concludes with a major writing assignment. While procedures at each law school will vary, the sample syllabus assumes that the instructor will provide feedback for each of the minor assignments and that each student will submit a first draft of the major assignment for more detailed feedback and discussion at an individual conference with the instructor before the student submits the final version for grading. Over a traditional semester of 13-15 weeks, the nine topical lessons might be covered in nine weeks, leaving the remaining time for the final assignment process, which includes a conference between each student and the instructor.

The construction industry offers a rich array of contractual arrangements from which to choose. Accordingly, the sample syllabus suggests general categories of agreements to include instead of proposing a definitive set of contracts, and it merely offers brief descriptions of drafting exercises rather than specific assignments. Instructors may adjust the topical coverage and the nature and scope of the specific drafting assignments based on the length of the term, the number of credits offered, and their personal preferences, For example, in selecting sample contracts, some instructors may prefer to rely primarily on form contracts promulgated by just one or two leading industry organizations (subject, of course, to copyright restrictions). And instructors who have significant practice experience may draw on that experience to develop drafting exercises.

As is true for any course offering upper-level writing credit, instructors using this syllabus should be certain to confirm that the syllabus includes sufficient details to comply with the latest version of the relevant ABA standards as well as any additional requirements of the institution at which the course is to be offered. Finally, note that while the sample syllabus focuses exclusively on contract drafting skills, an upper-level writing course could also engage students in construction law research. The guide for the Construction Law Practice course offers suggestions for that purpose.