

Consumer Law
The John Marshall Law School
Professor David E. Sorkin
Summer 2005

SYLLABUS

Overview

This course examines concerns particular to consumer transactions in formation, substance, and remedies. Topics include advertising; consumer sales practices and contracts; consumer credit practices; fraud; warranties; and product standards and safety. Regulatory, statutory, and common-law obligations and remedies (both state and federal) will be addressed, with an emphasis on federal consumer protection statutes.

The course meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, on the dates indicated below.

The website for the course is located at www.consumerlawclass.com.

Instructor

David E. Sorkin, Associate Professor of Law
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Textbooks

- Douglas J. Whaley, *Problems and Materials on Consumer Law* (Aspen 3d ed. 2002) (ISBN 0-7355-2601-X, publisher's list price \$68)
- *Selected Commercial Statutes* (West 2004 ed.) (ISBN 0-314-15363-2, publisher's list price \$39) (You need not purchase this if you already have an equivalent text.)

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance and Class Participation

Regular attendance, preparation, and active participation are expected. Students who miss more than three class meetings will not be eligible to receive credit for the course. If you are not prepared for a particular class session, please let me know by the beginning of that class.

Class participation will account for 20% of the course grade.

2. Reports

Each student will be assigned to submit brief reports to supplement the assigned readings on selected topics throughout the semester. These reports should summarize the major provisions of Illinois law that are relevant to the assigned topic, and describe any important recent legal developments (e.g., new federal legislation, U.S. Supreme Court or other major court decisions, etc.). Reports may be submitted via e-mail or in hard copy. A sample report will be made available at the first class session. You should be prepared to discuss the contents of your report in class; a formal presentation is not expected unless you are absent on the date that the topic is covered in class.

Due dates for the reports will be announced in advance. Late reports will receive at most partial credit, and in no event will any reports be accepted after the last class meeting.

The reports will account for 20% of the course grade.

3. Examination

The final examination will account for the remaining 60% of the course grade. The examination will be closed-book; any necessary statutes or other information will be included in the examination booklet. Make-up examinations will be given only for good cause, and barring extraordinary circumstances must be taken before rather than after the scheduled examination date. If you wish to request a make-up examination, please contact the Associate Dean for Academic Services, who will relay your request to me anonymously.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

Additional required reading assignments may be announced in class. In addition to the pages listed below, you will also need to consult relevant statutes and regulations. Materials that are not in the casebook or statutory supplement will normally be available at www.consumerlawclass.com.

Monday, May 23	Fraud: Casebook pages 1-35
Wednesday, May 25	Deceptive Practices: Casebook pages 63-107
Wednesday, June 1	Deceptive Practices, continued: Casebook pages 107-173
Wednesday, June 8	Product Liability: Casebook pages 175-192 State Warranty Law: Casebook pages 192-200 Warranties and the Sale of Homes: Casebook pages 200-210
Monday, June 20	Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act: Casebook pages 211-219 Consumer Product Safety Act: Casebook pages 220-256
Wednesday, June 22	Payment and Consumers: Casebook pages 259-324
Monday, June 27	Credit Reporting: Casebook pages 325-352 Equal Credit Opportunity Act: Casebook pages 352-386
Wednesday, June 29	Truth in Lending—Disclosure: Casebook pages 387-480
Wednesday, July 6	Truth in Lending—Remedies: Casebook pages 481-538
Monday, July 11	Supplemental materials to be assigned (arbitration)
Wednesday, July 13	Consumer Leasing: Casebook pages 539-546 Retail Installment Sales and Loans: Casebook pages 547-558
Monday, July 18	Debt Collection: Casebook pages 559-610
Wednesday, July 20	Consumers in Cyberspace: Casebook pages 611-629 Supplemental materials to be assigned (cyberspace)
Monday, July 25	Examination