

**Welcome to Roger Williams University Law School!** And welcome especially to your Civil Procedure class.

This is a very exciting year to be learning civil procedure. There are many important cases in the courts right now, including some that could fundamentally shape our future as a nation. It could not be a more important time to understand how the American court system works. And there are lots of interesting lawsuits for us to examine and discuss.

Our class this Fall will begin by going through the specific steps in a lawsuit, from the filing of a complaint, which is the way a civil case is initiated, through the final judgment (and, if it occurs, appeal). Our first unit will address an important preliminary topic to understand – remedies (or as our book describes this “Incentives to Litigate”). This concerns, in plain words, what a person who brings and wins a civil lawsuit can hope to get from the justice system in terms of concrete relief.

I will be posting lots of additional information on our Bridges website to help you get acclimated to learning civil procedure. For now, here are some important immediate first steps:

**Required Books:** You will need the following two books before our first class. We will use both books frequently. You can purchase them through the law school bookstore or online (or rent them, in the case of the casebook):

- (1) Stephen Yeazell and Joanna Schwartz, Civil Procedure (10<sup>th</sup> edition) (Wolters Kluwer 2019) (ISBN: 978-1-4548-9788-0)

*(NOTE: You do NOT need to purchase a copy that include access to the “Connected Casebook” material online; a used copy is fine and much less expensive)*

- (2) Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (2020 Edition) (Michigan Legal Publishing 2019) (ISBN: 978-1-6400-2072-6)

*(NOTE: Be sure to get the 2020 Edition)*

**First Assignment:** For our first class, please complete the following two assignments:

- (1) **News Articles:** Read two assigned news articles (described below) concerning the recent protests in Portland, Oregon and the use of federal law enforcement agents to quell the protests.

There are two ways to access the news articles. First, here are links to the articles online on the New York Times website (including photos and videos):

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/us/politics/federal-agents-portland-arrests.html> and

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/us/portland-protests.html>

*(OR, if the above links do not work for you, the text of both articles is posted on our Bridges website under the "Resources" folder)*

- (2) **Civil Complaint:** Read the civil court complaint filed by the State of Oregon related to the above protests. The complaint is available as follows:

Here is an online link: [http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/ag\\_rosenblum\\_xxxx\\_updated\\_complaint\\_1595086491349.pdf](http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/ag_rosenblum_xxxx_updated_complaint_1595086491349.pdf)

*(OR, if this doesn't work for you, you may access a copy of the complaint on our Bridges website, in the "Resources" folder.)*

I look forward to discussing these materials with you during our first class! Note also that I will be asking each of you, before class begins, to introduce yourselves. More information on that assignment will be forthcoming shortly. See you soon.