

Introduction to Civil Procedure: This is an exciting time to be studying law -- and to be starting on your study of Civil Procedure. The procedural principles by which courts decide civil legal cases, as covered in this course, could not be more important for a lawyer to understand. Key social and political issues are presented to the courts, which have the power to decide what legal rules will and will not be enforced. To understand how any given case will be decided requires expert understanding of civil procedure.

Your First Assignment: We start with an issue at the forefront of the news – COVID vaccination requirements. You may already have read a lot about COVID and COVID vaccines, and likely have your own views on vaccination requirements. We will be looking at how a legal challenge to such requirements might be framed (and might fare in the courts). For our first class, you will read the first decision issued in a challenge to a university requirement that all students be vaccinated against COVID. Carefully read the decision provided in the link below (a copy is also available on our Bridges website).

Allot at least **two to three hours** to carefully consider this decision. Don't worry if you have trouble understanding every detail in the decision – read to get a basic sense of what the court is saying. Don't be intimidated by the length of the decision -- I have assigned you the actual court case, and the pages are each very short (much less than if it were reprinted in a case book).

As you read, ask yourself:

- What court issued this decision?
- Who brought this case? What did these parties want to get from filing the suit?
- What was the basic factual dispute underlying this case?
- What law or laws did the parties who sued believe gave them rights here?
- What is a “preliminary injunction”?
- How did the court rule on this particular request? Why did the court rule that way?

Come to our first class with your answers in hand. I look forward to discussing these issues with you!

Here is the link (there is no need to print out this decision - you just need to make notes):

<https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/klaassen-indiana.pdf>

A copy is also accessible on this Bridges website by clicking on the "Resources" tab on the left, then looking in the folder for "Supplementary Reading Materials."