MEMORANDUM

To: Students
From: Florence Wagman Roisman
Date: October 25, 2012
Subject: Spring Seminar in U.S. Legal History (2 credits)

RE: My plan for the seminar

My plan for the seminar is for us to read some books about and discuss significant moments in fairly recent U.S. legal history. As in all my upperclass courses, I anticipate that there will be no final exam; instead, each student will write a reflection each week and a book review.

While I reserve the right to make, and welcome your suggestions about, changes, my current thinking is that we’ll address some of the following:

- Internment of Japanese Americans:
  Irons, History of the Supreme Court, 348-364, “A Jap’s a Jap” & Zinn introduction;
  Irons, Courage of their Convictions, 37-62

- The 1948 election of Lyndon Johnson to the U.S. Senate – stealing the election, brilliant lawyering (by Abe Fortas), and the consequences of the theft.
  Caro, Means of Ascent, 3092-384;
  Caro, The Passage of Power, 54-56, 150-155


- Kirp, Dwyer, & Rosenthal, Our Town: Race, Housing and the Soul of Suburbia (about the Mount Laurel doctrine in New Jersey).

- The Civil Rights Movement and Judge Frank Johnson:
  Taming the Storm, 162-172 (the 1960 election);
  173-196 (Freedom Riders);
  236-59 (Selma)

Education:
    Chapter on Hernandez in Race Law Stories, 37 pp
    Rodriguez in CRS  24 pp

Nancy MacLean, Freedom is not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace
    Prologue and Part I: African Americans Shake the Old Order (113 pages)
    Part II: Others Reposition Themselves (117-261 - 144 pp.)
    Part III: The Challenge of the New Order (265-347 – 82 pp.)

