



**MERCER**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Number**  
LEG 130

**Course Title**  
Civil Litigation I

**Credits**  
3

**Hours:**  
Lecture/Lab/Other  
3/0/0

**Co- or Pre-requisite**  
LEG 129

**Implementation**  
Semester & Year  
Spring 2022

**Catalog description:**

Study of the law of torts designed to acquaint the paralegal with the various forms of tort actions encountered in the law office.

**General Education Category:**  
**Not GenEd**

**Course coordinator:**  
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**Required texts & Other materials:**

**Required Textbook:**

*Tort Law* by J.S. Edwards, Cengage Publishers  
ISBN-13: 978-1285448046  
ISBN-10: 1285448049

**Supplemental materials provided free of charge:**

American Museum of Tort Law at <https://www.tortmuseum.org/>

**Legal Specialty Course Notice:**

This course is a legal specialty course (LS) as designated in the college's American Bar Association (ABA) approval reports for the legal studies degree and certificate programs.

This course does not constitute the teaching of law for the purpose of practicing law; in the State of New Jersey only a licensed attorney may practice law.

**Legal Specialty Course Transfer Notice:** The following legal specialty courses must be completed at MCCC and may not be transferred: LEG 129, LEG 130, LEG 132, LEG 133, LEG 143, LEG 255.

**Legal Specialty Teaching Modality Notice:** LEG 130 must be completed in a synchronous learning modality which may be live remote or live campus sessions depending on the current course offerings.

Per the ABA Guidelines for legal education courses, LEG 130, LEG 132 and LEG 133 are offered as synchronous learning modalities only for a required total of nine (9) credits per program.

**Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

***Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:***

1. Explain the historical basis of tort law and explain the role of torts within civil litigation. [Supports ILG # 5, 10 ; PLO #1, 4 ]
2. Analyze hypothetical scenarios and provide meaningful analysis of tort law principles, including exceptions and defenses to torts and negligence. [Supports ILG # 5, 10, 11 ; PLO #1 ]

3. Describe the elements of major intentional torts, including but not limited to: assault, battery, false imprisonment, character defamation torts, I.I.ED. and privacy torts. [Supports ILG # 5,10 ; PLO # 3,5]
4. Define the elements of negligence, including the elements, defenses to negligence and theory of negligence. [Supports ILG #5,10 ; PLO #3, 4 ]
5. Apply best practices and professionalism standards when working with torts and negligence based cases in a legal employment setting. [Supports ILG # 11 ; PLO # 2, 5]

### **Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):**

**Institutional Learning Goal 5. Social Science.** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

**Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy:** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

**Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking:** Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

### **Program Learning Outcomes for:**

#### **Paralegal A.A.S. degree and Paralegal Certificate (post-degree credential)**

1. Understand the roles and responsibilities of legal professionals in a variety of legal employment settings;
2. Identify and implement standards of legal ethics and professionalism;
3. Demonstrate practical skills in a range of substantive legal areas;
4. Engage in effective written and verbal professional communication;
5. Develop appropriate methods for embarking on a legal career.

### **Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### **Unit I Tort Law Essentials**

**Learning Objectives** [Supports SLO # 1, 3]

**The student will be able to...**

- Discuss the United States legal system, sources of law and the historical foundations of tort law.
- Discuss the main categories and common torts, including intentional torts, business torts and privacy torts.
- Explain general concepts in civil litigation, including legal support work and responsibilities to the client.
- Explain the foundational relationship between torts, negligence and civil litigation.
- Explain the role of lawyers and paralegals in representing tort and negligence cases.
- Distinguish the standard of proof for torts cases (preponderance of the evidence) in comparison to criminal cases (beyond a reasonable doubt).

#### **Unit II Special Topics within Tort Law**

**Learning Objectives** [Supports SLO # 2, 3, 5 ]

**The student will be able to...**

- Analyze case law concerning torts in a variety of jurisdictions.
- Evaluate the debate on tort reform and recovery limits for damages.
- Identify prevailing trends in tort law, including advocacy for victims of torts and negligence.

- Evaluate rules concerning insurance law for tort liability
- Distinguish between intentional torts and negligence
- Analyze hypothetical scenarios concerning tort law and apply key concepts to fact patterns.
- Discuss toxic torts in relation to victims' rights and environmental law.
- Discuss and analyze prominent cases or class action suits which may include the tobacco litigation cases, abuse and harassment cases, asbestos litigation or medical device cases.

### **Unit III Negligence**

**Learning Objectives** [Supports SLO # 2, 4, 5]

**The student will be able to...**

- Identify the elements of negligence.
- Distinguish between criminal acts and negligence and explain how one incident can give rise to both civil and criminal concepts.
- Explain the standards for assessing duty of care in a negligence matter.
- Explain breach of duty and how causation of injury may be established.
- Describe the role of discovery and evidence in investigating and pursuing torts claims.
- Define special topics in negligence law including vicarious liability, strict liability, professional malpractice and products liability.
- Identify the standards for professional malpractice and medical malpractice
- Describe the role of compliance officers and legal team in identifying and reducing the likelihood of tort liability in a business setting.
- Analyze products liability principles and case law.
- Discuss vicarious liability concepts and how this applies to hypothetical scenarios
- Explain worker's compensation concepts in relation to negligence

### **Evaluation of student learning:**

**Assignments:** Written research, case briefs or case analysis responses, legal document drafting assignments and practical legal tasks designed to assess preparedness for practical legal work.

**Quizzes:** Essay and multiple-choice assessments designed to measure understanding of objective legal concepts.

**Discussions:** Course-related conversations in a live setting or via discussion board to support and assess concepts presented in the unit.