COURSE SYLLABUS

Advanced Appropriations Law Course

Build expertise in complex federal appropriations law through guided research and case analysis of funding decisions.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/advanced-appropriations-law



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Course Outline

Module 1: Appropriations Law Review

- Overview of key legal sources: Constitution, Authorization and Appropriations Acts, GAO decisions.
- Distinction between fiduciary and pecuniary responsibilities.
- Understanding the congressional “Power of the Purse.”
- Principles such as Specific vs. General Rule and Reprogramming vs. Transfers.
- Case law and administrative discretion in appropriations.

Module 2: Purpose

- Application of 31 U.S.C. 1301 and the Necessary Expense Doctrine.
- Specific rules regarding food, gifts, clothing, and travel.
- Evaluation of purpose-related expenditures and proper classification.
- Multiple case studies analyzing conference expenditures and violations.
- Hands-on classification exercise: legal, wasteful, improper, ADA violations.

Module 3: Government Charge Cards

- OMB Circular A-123 guidelines and GAO implications.
- Proper and improper use of government purchase cards.
- Certifying officer liability and good faith exceptions.
- Case analysis: food expenditures, fraud, personal purchases, pandemic supplies.

Module 4: Time

- Bona Fide Needs Rule and appropriation life cycles (unexpired, expired, canceled).
- Service contract rules: severable vs. non-severable.
- Interagency agreements and use of Economy Act orders.
- Case studies covering invoices, ratifications, contract modifications, leases.

Module 5: Amount

- Understanding the Antideficiency Act and miscellaneous receipts statute.

- Identifying and reporting ADA violations.
- Evaluating amount-based misuse through real-world case scenarios.
- Topics include insurance, employment, lease obligations, and unauthorized contracts.

Module 6: Inbox Exercise

- Scenario-based application of purpose, time, and amount principles.
- Participants evaluate appropriateness and legality of financial actions.
- Scenarios include: Combined Federal Campaign costs, escrow accounts, smartphone use, ADA infractions.