

NEWS

Biz Law

Business law program emphasizes entrepreneurship and deal-making skills

The law school's new business law website lists our strengths right upfront, starting with entrepreneurship and deal-making skills — including our experimental transactional practice laboratory.

The lab introduces business law students to the process of doing a deal and the relationships among the various parts. They draft, negotiate, and close a simulated contract — one based on a successful real-world deal.

The law school is partnering with a number of Oregon firms for this new two-part course. A law professor teaches doctrine and legal theory in Eugene, while business attorneys teach practical skills in the one-credit labs, which take place in



Rob Illig teaches mergers and acquisitions and private equity and venture capital.

“Last summer, I worked on cross-border transactions in New York, Washington, D.C., and Bangkok for an international law firm. I even attended a closing in London! My internship succeeded because our business law program gave me a firm understanding of the legal issues involved and taught me to think like a transactional attorney.”

Chumbhot “Arm” Plangtrakul,
Class of 2007



Portland. This semester, the topic is mergers and acquisitions. Business law professor **Rob Illig**, who developed the concept, teaches the academic course. Attorneys **Tom Tongue '99** and **Dave Kopilak '94** teach the laboratory portion — both are with Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt in Portland.

“These labs give students the experience of taking each step on their own,” says Illig, “along with some coaching beforehand and feedback afterwards. Much of the learning, in fact, will arise from their mistakes!”

Next semester, the laboratory topic is real estate. Future transactional practice labs may include employment law, complex CEO agreements, prenuptial agreements, and employment law.

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