
IT 881 -- CURRENT TOPICS IN IT LAW: INTERNET FRAUD SPRING 2003

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Welcome to the Internet Fraud seminar. This seminar meets on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 9:00 pm for 10 weeks. We will explore this topic through discussions, hands on training, student presentations and perhaps a guest lecture or two. Your participation is essential.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no textbook for this class. Course materials will be posted periodically at the [reading materials](#) section of this Web site.

GRADES AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be based on class participation (20%), in-class presentation (20%), a fraud investigation memo [25%] and a final advocacy brief [35%].

IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS -- Each student will be expected to present an outline and lead an in-class discussion (approximately 15 minutes in length) on the current issues and controversies surrounding a specific topic. Each presentation should take the class a step beyond the course materials and discuss items in the news, pending legislation (federal and state), any current cases of interest, and identifiable trends. Creativity is greatly appreciated and handouts are strongly encouraged.

TOPICS FOR IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS: A list of suggested topics is included at the end of this syllabus. This list is a work-in-progress and will be periodically expanded in the weeks leading up to the first class. Please pick your top three choices for your in-class presentation and provide that list at

the beginning of the second class meeting. You may propose additional topics, but those proposed topics should be raised prior to the beginning of the second class.

FRAUD INVESTIGATION MEMO -- Each student must conduct an online investigation and locate a potential target for an Internet fraud investigation by law enforcement. The student must then provide an objective memo to their "supervisor" providing evidence and argument why a law enforcement action should be taken against the target.

ADVOCACY BRIEF -- Each student will draft an advocacy brief arguing why their potential target for investigation has violated a consumer protection statute.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session One: Introduction -- _____, 2003

This session will consider some of the history and trends of fraud in the online world. We will conduct an overview of some of the fraud issues that will be discussed throughout the semester. We will also identify and discuss the roles of many of the major institutions that attempt to combat online fraud.

Session Two: Internet Fraud Investigative Techniques -- _____, 2003

This session looks more carefully at how law enforcement agencies conduct investigation of Internet fraud. This session will examine various tools for locating fraud and techniques to gather evidence.

Session Three: "Old Wine In New Bottles" -- _____, 2003

This session will examine how "traditional" scams -- including pyramids, work at home, business opportunities, travel and health care scams -- have proliferated over the Internet.

Session Four: Auction Fraud -- _____, 2003

Internet auction fraud is the number one Internet related complaint received by law enforcement agencies. This session looks at how Internet auctions work and how Internet auction fraud occurs. This session will also consider law enforcement issues in investigating auction fraud cases and what can be done to minimize this type of fraud.

- McGovern -- Internet Auction Shill Bidding

Session Five: Financial Fraud -- _____, 2003

This session will look at financial fraud conducted over the Internet. This session will examine the ins and outs of credit card and securities fraud committed online and consider what law enforcement and private industry can do about the problem.

Session Six: "High-Tech" Internet Scams -- _____, 2003

Some types of fraud could only happen online. This session considers those more "high-tech" scams, including deceptive practices involving executable files, "page jacking," modem hijacking, copycat Web sites and the use of deceptive meta-tags and mouseover text tags.

Session Seven: Spam -- _____, 2003

This session considers more closely the role of unsolicited commercial e-mail in online fraud. The class will attempt to define the spam problem and consider ways to solve the problem.

Session Eight: Privacy Related Deception -- _____, 2001

This session examine privacy related deceptive practices. The class will consider what companies can do to keep their privacy policies clear and conspicuous. The class will analyze law enforcement actions brought in this area. The class will also consider when the use of cookies, Web bugs and "spyware" crosses the line into deceptive behavior. This session will also consider the Internet's role in the problem of identity theft. The class will explore how identity theft occurs, examine how the problem is being addressed and consider other solutions to the problem.

Session Nine: Legal Issues -- _____, 2003

This session considers common legal issues that arise in Internet investigations and prosecutions. Among other things, this session will consider legal issues involving privacy statutes, international scope of law enforcement investigations and appropriate legal remedies for Internet fraud.

Session Ten: The Future of Internet Fraud -- _____, 2003

This session will wrap up the semester by discussing the latest hot topics and consider what the future of Internet fraud may hold with the influx of new technology such as wireless Internet and interactive television nears.

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION TOPICS

- **The latest credit card industry innovations to minimize credit card fraud.**
- **The role of alternative payment systems (e.g., PayPal, Firecash) in fraud on the Internet.**
- **Modem hijacking.**
- **Deceptive metatags and hyperlinks.**
- **Interactive television fraud issues.**
- **Wireless Internet fraud issues.**
- **ID Theft.**
- **Spyware.**
- **Internet auction fraud.**
- **Deceptive Web site privacy policies.**
- **"Copycat" Web sites.**
- **Internet advertising -- what's deceptive?**
- **"Pump and dump" investment scams.**
- **Electronic Communications Privacy Act.**
- **Deceptive "spam."**
- **International Internet fraud**
- **Internet advertising -- what's deceptive?**
- **Server logs**
- **Credit card payment system**
- **Internet auction shill bidding**
- **Web designer/ISP liability for fraud**

