

Purpose and Objectives of Reassigned Time

I seek Track II reassigned time for the fall 2013 semester. Generally, I intend to use the reassigned time to “reset [my] daily schedule to complete” one and move forward other “creative scholarly activities.” Specifically, if granted reassigned time, I will use it to complete and submit for review and publication a qualitative research paper. The time will also be used to advance one of several additional scholarly works which will utilize the data gathered from my January 2014 research trip to China.

Background. In spring 2013 the paper *Legal Competitive Advantage and Legal Entrepreneurship: A Preliminary International Framework* (co-authored with Dr. Justin Evans) was accepted for publication with the North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation. (Final editing is complete, and the paper will be published next month – December 2013.) This article examines how the international firm can best strategically account for the various legal systems in which it operates. It draws heavily on both business and law literature, proposing a framework to guide the integration of law and strategy. The unique framework proposed demonstrate that three types of flexibility exist in every legal system (substantive, enforcement, and systemic flexibilities), and each type can be used to craft legal competitive advantage. We posit that a new type of attorney – the entrepreneurial lawyer – will approach the law as a marketplace—much as the traditional entrepreneur approaches the economic market—harness legal flexibilities present in each jurisdiction, and craft sustainable competitive legal advantages for the client. This article, then, serves as the foundation for a series of articles that Dr. Evans and I plan to write.

China Research Trip. As the College of Business and Entrepreneurship’s *Lusk Family Faculty of Distinction*, I received financial assistance to take a research trip to China. Dr. Evans and I will travel together and interview attorneys and senior managers doing business in China on behalf of American firms. This IRB-approved research trip will take place in January 2014, and Dr. Evans and I will collect a unique qualitative data set from these interviews and use the data to further inform and refine the framework defined and described in our first article. A scholarly article built upon this data set should be mostly complete by early fall 2013.

What activities will be carried out to accomplish these purposes/objectives.

Reassigned time will permit me to finalize, move forward, or begin additional research – all of which is grounded in our initial paper. My time for scholarly writing in spring 2013 will be limited, and it is the motivating reason for this application. In the fall of 2103 – the semester for which I seek reassigned time – Dr. Evans and I intend to complete the paper which refines our framework. We will then continue work on articles 1) addressing the framework’s application to international intellectual property law and 2) fully defining the concept of “legal entrepreneurship.” We also intend to author a case study from our research interviews in China. Which particular scholarly writing opportunity we pursue in fall 2104 will largely turn upon the outcomes of our China research trip.

How reassigned time will affect your scholarly development plans or address university/college/department goals and themes.

In addition to “complet[ing] worthwhile projects [that I] otherwise would have insufficient time to accomplish,” furthering my research agenda will benefit the College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the University in the following ways:

Directly and meaningfully promote the University’s internationalization effort and “teacher-scholar” mission—by conducting and publishing interdisciplinary research focused on international business.

Directly and meaningfully promote the College’s accreditation effort and its new focus on entrepreneurship—by conducting and publishing interdisciplinary research focused on international business, and by further defining and describing the “entrepreneurial lawyer” and its impact on legal entrepreneurship.

Promote student learning by incorporating this research into the classroom—for example, this research has become and will continue to be a part of “Business Law I,” a course required of all BBA majors that historically has lacked an international component.

Advance faculty collegiality and collaboration—the award of reassigned time will enable me to work with my colleague and co-author as we work with our collected data, and our efforts will encourage others to collaborate by illustrating the strength of teamwork in research.

Track II Reassigned Time Report

Faculty Member: Gabel, Anthony
Rank: Associate Professor
Department: Management & Marketing
College: Business & Entrepreneurship
Term: Fall 2014

I. Intended Purpose and Objectives of Reassigned Time

Generally, I intended to use the reassigned time to “reset [my] daily schedule to complete” one and move forward other “creative scholarly activities.” Specifically, I intended to complete and submit for review and publication a qualitative research paper. I also intended to advance one of several additional scholarly works which will utilize the data gathered from my January 2014 research trip to China.

II. Results

In June 2014 my colleague, Justin Evans, and I attended a conference sponsored by Emory Law School in Atlanta, Georgia. Our conference presentation concerned the need to modify the legal education of law students based upon our published paper *Legal Competitive Advantage and Legal Entrepreneurship: A Preliminary International Framework* and the qualitative data we gather from our research trip to China. The conference presentation—titled *Preparing Legal Entrepreneurs as Global Strategists in the 21st Century*—became the basis for the paper which Justin and I worked upon during the fall of 2014. We made substantial progress on the paper (its working title is *Preparing Legal Entrepreneurs as Global Strategists: The Case for Entrepreneurial Legal Education*), but we were not able to complete it within the semester as intended.

In addition to this one paper, progress was made on other projects, too. How these will mature is unknown at this time. As the college continues in its efforts to achieve accreditation, and with the emphasis being placed upon assessing student outcomes, I may return my research focus to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

III. Planned Subsequent Activities and General Comments

Work will continue on the one paper during Spring 2015, with the intent to complete and submit it for review and publication by the end of March. As time permits, work will continue on the other potential publications.

Given my experience this past fall I do not anticipate applying for Track II Reassigned Time anytime in the near future. I do not make that statement easily. I have spent a fair amount of time reflecting upon my fall semester, and I have wondered why it wasn't nearly as productive as I had hoped. I've identified several sources of competition for my time this past fall, source which could not be sidelined easily. I am willing to discuss these at length with any reviewing party.