

**MASARYK UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
Brno, Czech Republic**

**Public Health Emergency Law:
Domestic and International**

(Condensed Seminar in English Only)
Offered from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
PC Classroom
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,
March 18, 19 and 20, 2008

Judith W. Munson, Adjunct Professor
John Marshall Law School
And
Executive Director
International Collaborative for Public
Health Emergency Preparedness
Chicago, Illinois
jwmunson2@yahoo.com

A Twelve-Hour Seminar over Three Days
Exploring the Legal Bases By which Civilized Societies Seek to Address
the Threats Posed by the Intentional Use of Pathogens as
Agents of Bioterrorism, by Emerging Infectious Diseases, and by
Other Public Health Threats, Domestically and Internationally

Context of the Seminar

Simply put, since the anthrax attacks in the U.S. in the fall of 2001, a familiarity with the issues addressed by public health law--and a solid grounding in their statutory, regulatory and case decision foundation--is an essential ingredient of every law school curriculum, and, arguably, every school of public health curriculum. It is a subject that cannot be overlooked if the student is to be adequately prepared to advise clients effectively in this 21st Century. Furthermore, since the SARS epidemic of 2002-2003, and now the specter of a global pandemic of avian influenza, the required familiarity and understanding of the law in this area extend well beyond the state and national borders to the international arena as well. Consequently, a major emphasis of the course will be to expose students to international news and events pertinent to the subjects being emphasized in class.

Emergency legal preparedness, in the U.S., the Czech Republic, and internationally, is a rapidly evolving body of law. The seminar as a teaching/learning mechanism provides a

receptive and reactive environment which can quickly and effectively address emerging issues and events. Just nine months ago, for example, the airport in the city of Prague and the United States border security system were inextricably connected by an errant passenger traveling with XDR-TB—extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis. Breaking news alerts came daily, sometimes hourly, until the patient was located and secured.

The internationalization of the human condition will be emphasized in the seminar. Emerging topics of international public health concern (in addition to domestic public health legal issues) will be explored at the beginning of each class session. This is an imperative for the prepared legal practitioner. We are no longer individual, isolated countries protected by borders and able to shut out the rest of the world by locking the gate.

This seminar immerses the student in the public health scenarios which constitute emergencies for which legal authority to act is essential. It also familiarizes the student with the legal structures and documents upon which the domestic and international authorities are founded. Students will be introduced to the legal issues via case studies, tabletop exercises, and films, among other instruments. Reference works and resources used in the course are websites and other Internet-based learning mechanisms and communication technologies.

Lastly, each Masaryk University Faculty of Law student in Brno, the Czech Republic, will be partnered with a John Marshall Law School student enrolled in the same course in Chicago, Illinois. Students will be requested to discuss a specific topic of public health law with each other via the Internet telephony mechanism of www.Skype.com for about 1 hour. Students on both sides of the Atlantic will be required to prepare a one-page summary of this conversation.

Please Note:

Grades will be based upon the following factors:

Fifty percent (50%) of the grade will be based upon:

Class attendance and participation; class-reporting on website(s) selected to be monitored; and, responsibility for coverage of topics which may be assigned in the class sessions.

Fifty percent (50%) of the grade will be based upon:

The report of the Skype.com conversation with the Chicago law student

or

the document prepared comparing the pandemic influenza preparedness plan of the Czech Republic with that of another country in the EU.

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING A LAPTOP COMPUTER TO CLASS OR MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PARTNER WITH ANOTHER STUDENT WITH A LAPTOP