INDEPENDENT STUDY APPROVAL FORM

- **I.** A student wishing to pursue independent study or fieldwork for credit must obtain the consent of a faculty member to supervise a proposed project and approval of the Dean's Designee.
- **II.** Students must provide the following with this form to be reviewed by the Dean's Designee:
 - 1. Student transcript.
 - 2. A description (at least one paragraph in length) of the area of law to be examined in the independent study.
 - 3. An explanation of the differences between the topic covered in the independent study and any other independent study the student has undertaken at the College of Law.

III. Faculty Supervisor

I,, (Faculty Member)	agree to supervise(Student Name and ID#)
In his/her completion of a c	redit hour independent study project during the
semester/su	mmer session (year)
This Independent Study will be Graded	:
This Independent Study will be Pass/Fa	il:
_	Professor's Signature

IV. Previous Independent Study Enrollment

Dean's Designee

Complete the information requested below for each independent study course for which you have registered. Included those in which you have a grade of incomplete or withdrawal.

	Semester	Faculty Supervisor	Credit Hours	Grade	Topic		
V. Approved:							
	Disapproved:						

Date

Independent Study

A student wishing to pursue independent study or fieldwork for credit must obtain approval of the Dean's designee and the consent of a faculty member to supervise a proposed project. The faculty member assigns the amount of credit that the proposal justifies. In awarding credit to a student for an independent study paper, a faculty member should require a quantum of work from the student which approximates the amount of work expected from students enrolled in a regular course taken for the same number of credits. Faculty members should set minimum lengths for independent study papers based upon the complexity of the subject, the existing volume of literature on the topic, the number of redrafts required to complete the assignment, and the originality of the student's work product. Although exact guidelines cannot be formulated in awarding credit, past practices indicate that generally a paper of approximately 12,500 – 18,750 words, including footnotes, which has been redrafted one or more times after review by the faculty member, will be required for three credits. Generally, a paper of roughly 8,750 – 12,500 words, including footnotes (with one redraft) should be required for two credits, and normally a minimum of 6,250 words, including footnotes (with one redraft), should be required for one credit.

Juris Doctor students may apply a total of seven credits of independent study credit under supervision of faculty members of the College of Law towards the credit hour requirements for graduation, subject to all other graduation requirements. Master of Legal Studies students may apply a total of three one-credit independent studies towards the credit hour requirements for graduation. Adjuncts and Faculty Associates may not supervise independent studies. Each independent study proposal must include: (1) a statement of the area of law to be examined in the independent study, and (2) an explanation of the differences between the topic covered in the independent study and any other independent study the student has undertaken at the College of Law. Faculty and students will exercise care to ensure that independent studies are undertaken under the supervision of College faculty with requisite expertise in the subject area. Students who are on academic probation may not register for independent study hours. The Dean's designee shall maintain records for each student on the number of independent study hours for which the student registered, the number completed, the topics covered by the independent study, and the faculty who supervise the independent study credits. Faculty are advised to exercise care in supervising more than three credits of independent study for one student during the course of the student's academic career. Faculty are further advised to pay particular care to the assignment of grades to independent studies to ensure the integrity of the numerical grading process at the College.

Approval of the Dean's designee is required prior to registration for any independent study. Prior to approval, the Dean's designee shall review the prior independent study credits for any student in a semester. The Dean's designee shall not approve more than four independent study credits for any student in a semester. The Dean's designee shall not approve, without consultation with the faculty member and the Dean, any independent study which will result in the students receiving more than four units of independent study credit from any faculty member over the course of the student's academic career.