Empirical Law and Economics
Law 940-001
Tuesdays 4:30-6:30
Tanenbaum 320

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Office Hours
Silverman 135
T: 3:30-4:30

Purpose: This course will present a summary of modern methods of micro-econometrics, focusing on drawing causal inferences from observational data. We will then survey the empirical work in a number of core areas in law and economics.

Grade: Your grade will be entirely determined by a semester paper that either (1) surveys the empirical work in an area of law and economics not covered in the course or (2) proposes a hypothesis related to a law and economics topic, formulates a research design to test the hypothesis, collects data to implement the research design, and analyzes the results yielded by the design. The latter approach will most likely result in a higher grade than a paper that surveys the literature.

Schedule:

September 1: Introduction to Law and Economics
September 8: Introduction to Statistics
Readings:

September 15: More on Statistics
September 22: Police and Crime
Readings:

September 29: Prison and Crime
Readings:


October 6: Torts
Readings:


October 13: Contracts
Readings:
Jonathan Klick, Bruce Kobayashi, and Larry Ribstein, “The Effect of Contract Regulation: The Case of Franchising,” working paper


October 20: Property
Readings:

October 27: No Class (to be made up with meetings to discuss paper topics)

November 3: Corporate Governance
Readings:
November 10: Courts

Readings:


November 17: Legal Origins

Readings:


November 24: Health

Readings:


December 1: Class Suggestion(s)