I strongly encourage students to consider doing an independent study or law journal note project during their tenure at the Law School. Working closely with a faculty member on an advanced topic of interest to you can be a valuable experience for both parties.

I am happy to supervise independent study projects on topics related to my areas of research and teaching interest. These include electronic commerce or “cyberlaw” issues, intellectual property issues especially patent law, high tech constitutional law and other issues where technology and the legal system interact closely. My guidelines follow:

**Expectations**
I am generally only interested in supervising projects that result in high quality work suitable for publication, whether in a Penn journal or elsewhere. I am not adverse to other arrangements, however; talk to me in person if you want to propose something different.

**Credits/Length**
If you are seeking academic credit for your project, I expect 12 to 15 pages of writing per credit hour awarded. Senior Writing Projects are to be at least 3 credits. I'll consider supervising up to 4 credits of work, or a maximum of 60 pages.

**Meetings**
I expect us to meet at least briefly at least once every two weeks throughout the duration of the project. As part of your initial Proposal see below, you'll establish a mutually agreeable meeting schedule. By the night before any meeting, you need to send me via email pwagner@law.upenn.edu an agenda for our discussion, and a brief written summary of your progress to date. It's your responsibility to remind us both of these meetings.

**Due Dates & Deliverables**
Final drafts of projects for credit are due no later than 5:00 PM the last day of classes in the term for which credit will be awarded. I expect at least one rough draft to be turned in no less than two weeks prior to the due date, and I want a brief outline and preliminary bibliography turned in about two weeks before the rough draft. Specific due dates other than the final date will be established by your Proposal see below.

**Proposal**
You begin your project by creating a written proposal, which should contain:
- An overview of the topic you wish to consider, together with any preliminary views you might have or preliminary research.
- Your expectations for the project, in terms of final result.
- Proposed length and credits awarded.
- Proposed meeting schedule.
- Proposed due dates for outline and rough draft.

Your proposal is due before I'll sign the form accepting the independent study, typically during the first week of the term.

*If you have comments or questions, feel free to contact me at pwagner@law.upenn.edu.*