

Empirical Law and Economics– Law 7930 § 10
Jonah Gelbach and Jon Klick

Class Details
R: 2:45-4:35
Room 306

Office Details
Gelbach: Room 212
Klick: Room 315

Objective: To expose students to cutting-edge empirical research on legal questions.

Required Text: None; presented papers will be posted on Blackboard (assignments section) at least one week before the presentation will take place.

Recommended: Federal Judicial Center (2000), *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence*, 2d edition available at [http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/sciman00.pdf/\\$file/sciman00.pdf](http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/sciman00.pdf/$file/sciman00.pdf), especially chapters on “statistics” and “multiple regression.” An undergraduate statistics/econometrics book may also be helpful.

Attendance Policy: The ABA believes it knows how to allocate your time better than you do, so it mandates an 80 percent minimum attendance policy. Eventually, you will benefit from these kinds of entry restrictions.

Class Format: On presentation days, one of us will spend the first 30 minutes of class going over the paper, addressing general questions regarding the empirical methods used in the paper. Be prepared to ask us questions regarding general background issues during this time. The presenter will then deliver the paper from 3:20-4:35, taking questions from the audience as they arise.

Participation: Each student must be prepared to raise a question/criticism during the paper presentation.

Short Papers: For each of the presented papers (with the exception of the Klick and Gelbach papers), you are required to email (to Gelbach at gelbach@gmail.com) a short (3 double spaced pages maximum, margins 1 inch, standard font size) comment on the paper. Comments are due by 5 pm on the Tuesday preceding the presentation. This comment should include: 1) a statement of the hypotheses addressed in the paper; 2) a short explanation of why the questions addressed are important; 3) a description of the paper’s findings; and 4) criticisms of the paper’s methods (which can include a discussion of extensions you would like to see examined).

Semester Paper: Each student is required to turn in a more substantial paper that extends one of his short papers. This extension should focus on how one might address the criticisms raised in the shorter paper, including a discussion of what kind of data one would need to address these criticisms more fully. If you wish to deviate from this and write a paper on a separate subject, you must discuss this with one of us by March 15, 2007. The final paper must be submitted to Gelbach (at gelbach@gmail.com) by 5 pm on April 19, 2007.

Grading: Grades will be calculated based on the short papers (35%) and the longer paper (65%); they will be curved according to the class profile. The short papers will be graded on a credit/no credit basis.

Course Schedule:

January 11: Introduction
January 18: Statistics in less than 2 hours
January 25: Klick presents Klick and Tabarrok (2005), “Using Terror Alert Levels to Estimate the Effect of Police on Crime,” *Journal of Law & Economics*, 48(1): 267-279.
Gelbach presents Gelbach (2002), “Public Schooling for Young Children and Maternal Labor Supply,” *American Economic Review*, 92(1): 307-22.
February 1: Eric Helland (Claremont-McKenna Economics and The Rand Corporation): “Liability and Moral Hazard: Evidence from General Aviation”
February 8:
February 15: Joanna Shepherd (Emory Law)
February 22: Dino Falaschetti (Montana State University Economics)
March 1: Yair Listokin (Yale Law)
March 8: No Class (Spring Break)
March 15: Kate Litvak (University of Texas at Austin Law)
March 22: Daniel Ho (Stanford Law): “Congressional Agency Control: The Impact of Statutory Partisan Requirements on Regulation”
March 29:
April 5: Albert Yoon (Northwestern Law)
April 12: Wrap up
April 19: Semester Paper Due (send to gelbach@gmail.com)