COURSE SYLLABUS

Advanced Appropriations Law Course (Self-Paced)

Build expertise in complex federal appropriations law through guided research and case analysis of funding decisions.

> Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/advanced-appropriations-law-course-self-paced



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Course Outline

Module 1: Appropriations Law Review

- Overview of key legal sources: Constitution, Authorization and Appropriations Acts, GAO decisions.
- Distinction between fiduciary and pecuniary responsibilities.
- Understanding the congressional “Power of the Purse.”
- Principles such as Specific vs. General Rule and Reprogramming vs. Transfers.
- Case law and administrative discretion in appropriations.

Module 2: Purpose

- Application of 31 U.S.C. 1301 and the Necessary Expense Doctrine.
- Specific rules regarding food, gifts, clothing, and travel.
- Evaluation of purpose-related expenditures and proper classification.
- Multiple case studies analyzing conference expenditures and violations.
- Hands-on classification exercise: legal, wasteful, improper, ADA violations.

Module 3: Government Charge Cards

- OMB Circular A-123 guidelines and GAO implications.
- Proper and improper use of government purchase cards.
- Certifying officer liability and good faith exceptions.
- Case analysis: food expenditures, fraud, personal purchases, pandemic supplies.

Module 4: Time

- Bona Fide Needs Rule and appropriation life cycles (unexpired, expired, canceled).
- Service contract rules: severable vs. non-severable.
- Interagency agreements and use of Economy Act orders.
- Case studies covering invoices, ratifications, contract modifications, leases.

Module 5: Amount

- Understanding the Antideficiency Act and miscellaneous receipts statute.
- Identifying and reporting ADA violations.
- Evaluating amount-based misuse through real-world case scenarios.
- Topics include insurance, employment, lease obligations, and unauthorized contracts.

Module 6: Inbox Exercise

- Scenario-based application of purpose, time, and amount principles.
- Participants evaluate appropriateness and legality of financial actions.
- Scenarios include: Combined Federal Campaign costs, escrow accounts, smartphone use, ADA infractions.