



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF LAW at ANDOVER  
**Issues Impacting Women – Fall 2020**  
**ON-LINE EXCLUSIVELY**  
**Professor Diane M. Sullivan**

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**Instructor:** Professor Sullivan  
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**Course**

- Materials:**
1. MSL Television Series. Access on my faculty page.  
Required Books:
  2. "Barred From The Bar" by: Hedda Garza  
Watts Franklin – ISBN 0-5311-1265-9
  3. "An American Story" by: Debra Dickerson  
Alfred Aknopf – ISBN 0-38572-028-9
  4. "Determined to Win" by: Jean Driscoll  
Shaw Waterbrook Press – ISBN 0-87788-418-8
  5. "In Defense of Women" by: Judge Nancy Gertner –  
ISBN 978-0-8070-1143-0-C2011

\*\*After each class email your thoughts and answer to questions I pose.

**Scope:** Societal and legal issues impacting women

**Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to (1) provide some historical background of womens' rights, women lawyers, and other female trailblazers; (2) to provide an understanding of contemporary issues facing women; (3) have students deal with practical considerations for balancing careers & family; (4) assist students in effectively dealing with health, harassment & glass ceiling issues.

**Course  
Description  
& Grading**

**Criteria:** All Assignments – Submit to: [dianes@msslaw.edu](mailto:dianes@msslaw.edu)

	<u>Due Date:</u>	<u>Points</u>
#1 Paper on the Worldwide Treatment of Women.	09/15/20	20
#2 Book Review - "Barred From the Bar"	09/29/20	5
#3 Paper – Validity of Rape Shield Laws	10/06/20	10
#4 Paper on Domestic Violence	11/03/20	20
#5 Book Review – "An American Story"	10/27/20	5
#6 Book Review – "Determined to Win"	11/17/20	5
#7 Paper on How Womens' Sports Stack up Against Mens' sports	12/03/20	20
#8 Book Review – "In Defense of Women"	12/06/20	5
#9 Paper – Separate But Equal	12/01/20	10

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## **CLASS DESCRIPTION**

- Class 1**  
08/25 Educational Forum: Worldwide Treatment of Women (Show #167) (Sexual mutilation, trafficking of women, rape, domestic violence and polygamy).
- Assignment #1: The denial of basic rights to women in third world countries and what can be done about it. (Assignment: write a paper on a major problem for women in third world countries). [Due September 15<sup>th</sup>].
- Class 2**  
08/27 Educational Forum: Strong Women  
Why does our culture view strength a masculine trait? What are the benefits of weight training? Discussion of women trailblazers (female activists) belief that women of size and substance were less likely to be dependent. Discuss relationship of size and independence. Email to me.
- Class 3**  
09/01 Educational Forum: Fairy Tales  
Do fairy tales send young girls the wrong message? [i.e ....Wait for Prince Charming to rescue.] Are fairy tales excessively and offensively violent? Why the prevalence of the evil stepmother? What about books like Danielle Steel? Why the popularity of the Hallmark channel? Email your comments.
- Class 4**  
09/03 Educational Forum: Child Care Issues  
How do we reconcile the age old practice of families caring for their own with the modern world's actual circumstance of two family professionals? Or the simple economic need for dual incomes? Should a woman give up all she has worked for and stay home with her kid? Have men skated out of this responsibility under guise of being "the breadwinner? Strategies for balance of home and family. Email your comments.
- Class 5**  
09/08 Educational Forum: Obesity, Anorexia & Bulimia  
In a society that worships thin, why has obesity reached alarming proportions? Who and what is to blame for the disparity between the images we worship and the ones we ourselves show the world? Americans are obsessed with thinness and a segment of society, largely composed of bright adolescent females, is caught in a life of starvation or endless purging. Should advertisements that promote unhealthy thin images of women be banned? Email your response.
- Class 6**  
09/10 Educational Forum: *Women Making A Difference*. How do you presently make a difference? Future plans to do so? What, if anything, inspired you about these women? Email your response.
- Class 7**  
09/15 **Due: Assignment #1**: Paper Due: Worldwide Treatment of Women [Women in Third World Countries]. Address the success of the *Me Too* movement.
- Class 8**  
09/17 Topic: Sexual Harassment - What it is and remedies to victims?  
Question of Law: Sexual Harassment – Part 1  
Question of Law: Sexual Harassment – Part 2

**Class 9**  
09/22

Topic: Women and the Law

Assignment #2: Must have Hedda Garza's Book, *Barred From the Bar* and pass in book review by September 29<sup>th</sup> of book.

Discussion of the struggles of women to obtain admission to law schools and equality before the bar as well as some of the history of women's rights. What surprised you most about this? What is your prediction for the future?

Question of Law: *Barred From the Bar – The History of Women and The Legal Profession.*

Question of Law: *Women Lawyers Then: Women Lawyers Now.*

Question of Law: *Women and the Legal Profession – Discrimination, harassment and glass ceiling issues in the profession.*

**Class 10**  
09/24

Question of Law: Title IX and STEM. Why are there so few women in the STEM fields?

How did and should society change this? What positive changes might result with more women in this field? Email your comments.

**Class 11**  
09/29

Due: Assignment #2 Book Review of Hedda Garza's Book, *Barred From the Bar*

Rape Shield Laws – Question of Law Television show.

Assignment #3: Validity of Rape Shield Laws (Paper)-What is the status of the law? What should the status of the law be? Do our laws favor the victim over the accused? [Due October 6<sup>th</sup>].

**Class 12**  
10/01

Educational Forum: *Letter to the World* (Show #186)

Discussion of Seven Historical Women:

Eleanor Roosevelt  
Dorothy Thompson  
Margaret Mead  
Katharine Hepburn  
Babe Didrikson Zaharias  
Martha Graham  
Marian Anderson

Which woman inspired you most and why? What, if any, are the common traits of these women? What have you learnt from their times? Email your response.

**Class 13**  
10/06

Due: Assignment #3 Paper on Rape Shield Laws

Question of Law: Restraining Orders-Has the pendulum swung too far? Are restraining orders being abused? Have the facts become irrelevant? Are judges afraid of not granting a restraining order? Are they effective? Email your comments.

- Class 14**      Educational Forum: Domestic Violence Against Women  
10/08  
Assignment #4: Paper - How can we better prevent violence against women without infringing on Men's Rights. Assess the effectiveness of the laws and criminal justice system in dealing with domestic violence. How should it be improved? [Due November 3<sup>rd</sup>].
- Class 15**      Educational Forum: *Band of Sisters*  
10/13      Did any of these women inspire you? If so, who and why? Email your comments.
- Class 16**      Educational Forum: Female Veterans  
10/15      Discuss physical/sexual abuse of women in the military. What needs to be done to remedy this? Email your response.
- Class 17**      Educational Forum: *An American Story* (Show #165)  
10/20  
Assignment #5: Book review of Debra Dickerson's book.
- Class 18**      The History of Women and Space  
10/22      Discuss your reaction to the injustice revealed in this show. What lessons did you learn from these women? Email your response.
- Class 19**      **Due: Assignment #5** *An American Story* book review.  
10/27  
Educational Forum: The Meaning of Wife  
How do you define wife? What do you envision for yourself? Email your comments.
- Class 20**      Educational Forum: *Heroes For My Daughter*  
10/29      Who is your hero? Why? Discuss which of the heroes discussed you admire and why. Email your response.
- Class 21**      **Due: Assignment #4** - Domestic Violence  
11/03
- Class 22**      Educational Forum: Boston Marathon Memories  
11/05      Includes interviews with Bill Rodgers, Kathryn Switzer (1<sup>st</sup> female entrant) and Jean Driscoll (8 time wheel chair champion).  
Assignment #6 – Book review "Determined To Win". [Due November 17<sup>th</sup>]  
Assignment #7 – Paper. How Women's Sports Stack Up Against Men's Sports. [Due December 3<sup>rd</sup>].
- Class 23**      Educational Forum: Wisdom of The Ages  
11/10      What Lessons did you learn from these women? Email your response.
- Class 24**      Assignment #8: Book Review "In Defense of Women"  
11/12      By: Judge Nancy Gertner by December 6<sup>th</sup>

- Class 25**  
11/17      **Due: Assignment #6** Book review "Determined To Win".
- Educational Forum: Separate But Equal – Gyms, Golf & Sports-Legality of separate facilities  
Educational Forum: Separate But Equal-Education-Single gender classrooms
- Assignment #9 - Paper: The validity of Separate But Equal-Good or bad? Worth 10 points. [Due December 1<sup>st</sup>].
- Class 26**  
11/19      Educational Forum: *A Day in the Life of the American Woman*  
Which stories did you enjoy the most? What life lesson did you learn?  
Email your comments.
- Class 27**  
11/24      Educational Forum: *When Everything Changed – The Amazing Journey of American Women From 1960 to the Present*  
What brought about change? What pressing issues need to still be changed?  
Email your response.
- 11/26      **\* NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING DAY \***
- Class 28**  
12/01      **Due: Assignment #9** Paper Due: Separate But Equal
- Play Show "In Defense of Women" by: Judge Nancy Gertner  
Email Book Review **due by December 6<sup>th</sup>**.
- Class 29**  
Up      **Due: Assignment #7 Paper Due 12/03** –on How Women's Sports Stack Against Men's Sports.