

**APPELLATE BRIEF ASSIGNMENT:  
PATTERSON v. NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

**Instructions**

LRAW II will deepen your research, analytical, and writing skills. You will spend much of your time in the course this spring researching, drafting, and revising various parts of a federal appellate brief, particularly the Argument section.

Your brief will support the position of one party or the other in the hypothetical case of *Patterson v. Newton County School Board*, which is now on appeal to the Eleventh Circuit. The factual scenario leading to the dispute in this case involves a fourteen-year-old high school freshman, Kathryn Patterson, who was prevented from participating in a high school football program based on her sex.

Along with these instructions, you will receive a **Joint Appendix** that will serve as the record for purposes of your appeal. As you will learn in class, you must limit the facts and issues you argue on appeal to those appearing in the record.

This spring you will learn how to research federal statutes, cases, regulations, and secondary sources, and you will use these lessons to find authorities relevant to the argument in your appellate brief. You will submit a **Research Plan Assignment** where you will record your planned research methods, and a **Research Log Assignment**, where you will record the authorities you found. After you receive feedback on your research, you will draft and submit the **Argument Section** of your appellate brief. The feedback you receive on the Argument Section will guide you as you prepare to submit the **Final Appellate Brief**.

Please see your syllabus for **deadlines** for the Research Plan and Log Assignments, the Argument Section, and the final version of your entire brief. The substantive sections of your final brief (Question Presented, Statement of the Case, and Argument) will likely run **between 7 and 10 pages**.