Law student assignment

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“Hot Topics in Public Health Law and Policy”

**The purpose of this assignment** is to do background research and an outline for an experienced public interest attorney teaching a new online class— “Hot Topics in Public Health Law and Policy” – to non-attorney retirees at the City University of New York. The attorney is teaching the class *pro bono* and the students will not receive grades or credits for the course. The attorney seeks to engage the students in topical areas, while introducing them to issues regarding regulation, jurisdiction and litigation. Each class will be an hour comprised of a power point, graphic/visual materials, and class discussion. Readings will be assigned to support the class. The goal is for the class to be fun and lively!

Recreational Marijuana—Town Hall

The NYC Bar Association has stated “Marijuana prohibition is a costly and ineffective policy that has not succeeded in eliminating marijuana use. The failed policy has devastated families and communities, eroded respect for the law, and strained police-citizen relations.”

In this class, students will participate in a “Town Hall” in which students argue the pros and cons of legalization of recreational marijuana. Students will be provided with readings and will view a power point in advance of the “Town Hall”.

* Background of marijuana regulation in the US (medicinal and recreational)
* What is the status of marijuana regulation in the United States?
	+ What is the status of legalization of recreational marijuana in NYS?
* What are the various issues presented by legalizing marijuana?
	+ Health
	+ Criminal justice
	+ Equity
	+ Taxation and business development
	+ Other
* What are the lessons to be learned from tobacco?
* What are the legal hurdles/challenges?
* What is the experience of jurisdictions that have legalized marijuana?

Assignment. Your assignment is to research these issues, relying on legal and non-legal sources, including materials from advocacy and issue-oriented groups, testimony from legislative hearings, periodicals, newspapers, etc. and to develop materials for both sides of the argument.

You can provide the research in a chart format, outline, or in two stacks (with the pros and cons). Be creative, argumentative—have fun, but address the issues fully. Provide citations/references.

Please provide a list of about 8 articles, blogs, etc. for students to read—current is best!

You should write up the research in plain language since ultimately, the product is going to be a power point for nonlawyers. Feel like taking a stab at graphics or a power point? Go ahead!

Please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email to discuss this project. I am interested in feedback on the topic and what makes this interesting to you?