

**US Legal Learning Tree – Syllabus**  
**(January 2026)**

Welcome to the US Legal Learning Tree (USLLT). My goal is to educate non-US lawyers, law students (including US LLMs) and others who are interested in learning about US law. I started USLLT last September as a platform for teaching international students and lawyers about the US law and legal system.

Weekly classes by Zoom will range from 60-75 minutes. If you cannot attend, all classes are recorded. I will begin teaching again on **Tuesday, January 27 at 8:00 PM China Standard Time**. Unlike this past fall, I plan to provide regular readings in advance of class. Most of the topics are new but there will inevitably be some overlap and anyone attending for the first time will not be disadvantaged by not attending classes held to date. Note that there are several new topics related to legal issues regarding jurisdiction, venue and other fundamental topics which may impact Asian companies.<sup>1</sup>

There is no charge for attending. As explained previously, I work for a large US firm as a litigator and enjoy teaching and found it rewarding to work with international students during the 11 years that I taught at the University of Pennsylvania.

TOPIC	GENERAL THEME	
Structure of US Legal System <sup>2</sup>	Background lesson about structure of US and state courts	
The U.S. Constitution and Commerce	The growth of US federal law	
Personal Jurisdiction	When can a business or person be sued in the US?	*
Venue & Forum Non Conveniens	Is the venue fair to the business or person?	*
Choice and Conflicts of Law	What law should apply?	*
Punitive Damages	A risk of non-US copies.	*

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<sup>1</sup> These classes are noted with a \*.

<sup>2</sup> If you attended this class in the fall, of course of course feel free to skip. For anyone attending for the first time, last fall I did classes about the jury trial process, legal advertising in the US and how contingency cases work, class action basis, US arbitration basics and victim's rights in the US system. Anyone interested in these topics, should feel free to contact me. I would rather find time to repeat the class than send you a recording.

Basics of US Tort Law	Who is responsible for accidents?	
Basics of US Contract Law and the Uniform Commercial Code	How are US contracts structured?	
Separation of Powers in the Age of Trump	The expansion of Presidential Authority under President Trump	
A US lawyer's responsibilities	What professional standards apply to US lawyers?	

The one and only **requirement** to enroll is to provide me with your name, an email address, whether you are a student or employed (and your profession) and, if you would like, a sentence or two about why you are interested in participating. This information can be provided by email or through the program website: <http://www.uslegaltree.com>.

Thank you for your interest. Please contact me with any questions.

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