

Comments from Students in the Summer@Brown Course - 2021:

“Great Trials That Changed History: A Judge’s Perspective”

“Thank you for such a rewarding experience over the past month or so. I learned so much from you about all the various trials we covered and about law and our judicial system. I particularly enjoyed learning about trials that took place not too far from where I have grown up. The opportunity to dive into a trial of my choice during the last several days of the course was also very meaningful. I was able to choose a trial that I had a personal connection to and one that dealt with issues I care about. As I am sure you can tell from my selection of the Oprah speech and the sexual assault trial of Owen Labrie, women's rights and empowerment are issues I have spent time learning about and advocating for, so I am glad I had the opportunity to apply them to this course. I also feel that my public speaking improved immensely over just those two Zoom meetings we had, so I thank you for taking the time to help me develop such an important skill. It will definitely be helpful when I have to give my senior speech at Rivers this year!

--H.L.

“Thank you so much, again, for the amazing experience this class has provided for me. I have learned so much that I will take with me in my further studies and career.”

--J.K.

“Participating in this summer course not only introduced me to the great trials that shaped our society but also convinced me to continue pursuing legal studies in the future. Thus, I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your tremendous help on my public speaking, your insightful response to my questions, and your guidance

throughout the course. Your dedication to the course encouraged me to put the same effort into the program, which enriched my entire summer experience.”

“I have continued to practice public speaking as I joined our school's public speaking club, and I hope to develop the skills I acquired from our program.”

--J.H. (Hong Kong)

“I found myself feeling sad this morning that I no longer had any more final projects to watch or discussion questions to answer. *** I hope to take another one of your classes in the future.

Thank you so much. This class was an incredible opportunity. It offers so many new opportunities to me.”

--E.W.

“Dear Judge Curran,

I want to thank you for all the work you put into this course. From creating my own lecture for the final project, I know that recording around 20 lectures for us to watch must be no easy feat. I greatly enjoyed this course. I felt like I was challenged every day to critically evaluate each trial. I told my parents I definitely feel smarter after taking this course! Thank you for always giving me excellent feedback that encourages my thinking and stimulates my curiosity.”

-Y.T. (Vancouver, Canada)

“Thank you so much for all you taught me, this course helped me understand so many things about the world and my place in it.”

--E.W.

“I wanted to thank you for your lessons and guidance throughout the course. I truly believe I learned a lot of skills I will use going forward in my academic career and future in general— public speaking, reasoning, picking out details, etc.

I will continue to explore my legal passions in the future and think this was a great gateway into my studies of law. ***[T]hank you for a great month of learning...”

It’s an honor to have taken the course in general. It was a pleasure to have met you [virtually].”

-A.A.

“I sincerely loved this course...”

--N.B.

“I have found the course very engaging.”

--S.V.

“I like how we cover one trial per day because it keeps the material fresh in our minds when reading through everyone's perspectives on the discussion boards. The discussion questions asked of us help to cement my knowledge of what occurred during these trials, and the enrichment questions push me to think about these cases in larger contexts. The balance of the two allow me to reach a greater understanding of this course's content. I also appreciate the independence we're given during each module. The coursework is not too demanding, leaving time for us to do separate research on these trials or to peruse the further reading list.”

--F.C.

“Thank you so much for the opportunities you have given me to explore my curiosities and law in general.

I have enjoyed having you as a teacher.”

-L.C.

“The class has been very helpful for me in the criminal justice class I’m currently taking through a local University. Again, I appreciate all the work you put into the course and thank you.”

-T.S.

“Dear Judge Curran,

Thank you so much for an amazing summer.”

-P.B.

“I enjoyed your class and guidance far more than I anticipated I could going into my summer courses. Your expert knowledge was an excellent resource, but far more important was your compassionate teaching style.”

-C.D.

“[Thank you for the] memorable moments and meaningful discussions we had last month. It’s a truly unique and unforgettable experience that enriched my summer and has a significant impact on my future path. With your kind recognition and encouragement, now I am more confident to pursue the study of law and history. Meanwhile, my parents also read the recommendation letter, and as you might have already anticipated, both of them were very happy with it. My mom said that she was very grateful for your generous help and felt very proud of me.”

-J.H. (Hong Kong)

“I’ve found myself rather restless in the absence of our daily lectures and discussion boards -- something I never anticipated I’d be feeling! With that being said, I wanted to take the time to thank you not just for your kind letter of recommendation, but for your guidance throughout this summer, as well.

I feel as though I began this course somewhat hesitant or reserved. I knew few things about law or the judicial system, and the sheer thought of reading through legal jargon left me intimidated. And, of course, I was in the midst of a battle with my family, attempting to convince them of my interest in law, when even I wasn't so sure. These variables left inevitable room for self-doubt and apprehension to bubble and fester. What if everyone knows more than me? Will they think I'm dumb? I'm sure you know the like. I now look back on that version of myself and fail to recognize her. Rather than being riddled with intellectual insecurities, I'm now fueled with confidence and pride in my beliefs. I credit much of that growth to the manner in which you conducted our course and your ability to construct a tolerant and accepting environment even in this strange virtual era. The discussion questions you posed to us helped cement my understanding of the material, but it was the enrichment questions that created a new world for my mind to wander within. Those questions soon became the focus of many family dinner conversations and demonstrated the intersection of our legal system with philosophy and existential concepts. That connection left me practically enamored with not only the content of this course, but with the hope of continuing to study law itself. And so, I thank you. Thank you for designing a course that unveiled for me a new passion and has left me with an intellectual bounty of countless questions and curiosities.”

-F.C.

“I really enjoyed attending the class, and I learnt a lot from it.”

-S.V. (Singapore)
