

Sprouts Project Examples: Law

1. Legal Opinion: Commercial Contract Dispute

Introduction:

Students will draft a legal opinion analysing a commercial contract dispute, focusing on breach of contract, obligations, and remedies.

Field of Law:

Contract Law

Required Level of Knowledge:

Basic understanding of contract formation (offer, acceptance, consideration) and breach consequences. All necessary legal concepts will be introduced during the project.

Real-World Example:

In 2002, a Seattle Mariners season ticket holder sued the team for breach of contract and violation of free speech rights. The dispute centred around the team's attempt to revoke his premium seats due to his vocal behaviour during games. The case highlighted the complexities of contractual obligations and personal rights within service agreements. Source: <https://archive.seattletimes.com/archive/?date=20020828&slug=noisy28m>

What You Would Be Doing:

As a student, you will assume the role of a junior legal associate at a law firm. You'll receive a set of contract documents and a brief outlining the dispute between two parties. Your tasks will include analysing contract terms, identifying legal issues, researching legal principles, and drafting a legal opinion addressing the issues, applying legal principles to the facts, and advising on potential outcomes. This project will enhance your skills in legal analysis, critical thinking, and formal legal writing.

2. Case Commentary: Landmark Supreme Court Decision

Introduction:

Students will select a landmark Supreme Court case, analyse its background, legal arguments, and implications, and write a comprehensive commentary.

Field of Law:

Constitutional Law / Human Rights Law

Required Level of Knowledge:

Familiarity with legal reasoning and the ability to interpret judicial opinions. Contextual information will be provided to support understanding.

Real-World Example:

In April 2025, the UK Supreme Court ruled that the terms "man," "woman," and "sex" in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex, not gender identity. This decision had significant implications for the interpretation of equality laws and the rights of transgender individuals.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uks-highest-court-rule-definition-woman-under-equality-laws-2025-04-15/>

What You Would Be Doing:

In this project, you will act as a legal scholar analysing a significant court decision. Your responsibilities will include selecting a landmark case, conducting background research, analysing the judgment, assessing its implications, and writing a detailed commentary that summarises the case, critiques the reasoning, and discusses its significance.

3. Compliance Advisory: Corporate Liability Assessment

Introduction:

Students will assess corporate liability risks and draft a compliance advisory report, focusing on regulatory frameworks and risk mitigation strategies.

Field of Law:

Corporate Law / Regulatory Compliance

Required Level of Knowledge:

Understanding of corporate structures and basic regulatory principles. The project will introduce key compliance concepts and legal responsibilities.

Real-World Example:

The UK's Crime and Policing Bill 2025 expanded corporate criminal liability, holding companies accountable for offences committed by senior managers. This legislative change underscores the importance of robust compliance programs to mitigate legal risks. Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/extension-corporate-criminal-liability-united-kingdom-2025-05-28/>

What You Would Be Doing:

Assuming the role of a compliance officer, you will review a hypothetical company's operations and identify areas of potential legal risk, study relevant laws and regulations, evaluate the likelihood and impact of potential compliance failures, and prepare a report outlining identified risks and recommending measures to ensure compliance. This project will enhance your understanding of corporate legal responsibilities and the importance of compliance in business operations.

4. Legal Strategy: Intellectual Property Protection

Introduction:

Students will develop a legal strategy to protect a company's intellectual property, considering various forms of IP and enforcement mechanisms.

Field of Law:

Intellectual Property Law

Required Level of Knowledge:

Basic knowledge of intellectual property types (patents, trademarks, copyrights). The project will provide guidance on legal protections and strategic considerations.

Real-World Example:

In 2018, IBM was awarded \$83 million in a patent infringement lawsuit against Groupon, highlighting the importance of protecting intellectual property rights in the digital age. Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-07-27/ibm-wins-83-million-from-groupon-in-e-commerce-patents-case>

What You Would Be Doing:

As an IP legal advisor, your tasks will include reviewing the company's products and services, conducting an IP audit, researching legal mechanisms for IP protection, developing a comprehensive protection strategy, and compiling your findings into a strategic legal report. This project will provide insight into the role of intellectual property in business and legal strategies to protect it.