RMD Survey March 2011 (ID 31113)

Dear Students,

I hope you don't mind taking a few moments to help me. I am interested to find out about your experience with the RMD project. I will be very grateful if you can complete the attached 7 question survey, conducted anonymously by CETL. It won't take more than one minute to complete. Qs 1-6 can be answered yes or no, and Q 7 is optional. After you complete, press submit, and it will be received on an anonymous basis. Please reply immediately if you can, while RMD is still fresh in your minds, or at least by end of Sunday March 20. The results will help me in many ways, in particular, in enhancing my understanding of how law students learn. And I will post the results on the tort website. I thank you in advance for taking the time.

CETL received 49 responses.

Survey Questions:
1. Did you find the reflective media diary project to be a useful learning experience? Yes/No

   49 students – Yes

2. Did you find that the reflective media diary project increased your awareness of current tort-related issues of importance in the community? Yes/No

   48 students – Yes
   1 student – No

3. Did you find that the reflective media diary project helped develop your ability to identify and analyse unflagged tort law issues on your own? Yes/No

47 students – Yes
2 students – No

4. Did you find that the reflective media diary project helped develop your ability to think independently about tort law? Yes/No

    42 students – Yes
    7 students – No

5. If offered the choice all over again, would you still select the reflective media diary project over the research essay option? Yes/No

    47 students – Yes
    2 students – No

6. Would you recommend that the reflective media diary project be continued in future years? Yes/No

    48 students – Yes
    1 student – No

7. Are there any other comments that you would like to make about your reflective media diary project experience, including any suggestions for improvement of the project?

- RMD is really a wonderful way to explore tort law, though I have found a few litigation reports after the coroner's inquest. I try my best to identify potential tort issue. This piece of work really gives me more legal reflection and certainly is a rewarding way to independent learning. To me, both the word limit and way of doing RMD are fine. Thanks, Rick! I really appreciate that!

- Word limit can be increased so that we can express more our thoughts and opinions on that news story.
- when i have to hand in my work in March haven't learnt some topics yet like nuisance and defamation, thats a problem overall i enjoy it, i guess its more interesting than going essay:P
- the requirement of keeping authentic newspaper should be extended to part B because it helps us to learn more. Observed from my friends, they just go to wisenews to search all the relevant news and copied them. If such practice is adopted by every one, i wonder if their awareness towards tort issues amid community can be increased. And personally i think tracking news is fun.
- Dear Rick, I believe that you are the professor who like to think outside the box. You do not want us to just read the text book. Because tort issue is happening everyday. The best and interesting part of learning is by observation and trying to apply what we learn during classes. And therefore you created this RMD to assist us to learn on that way. The idea is brilliant. But, practically, as a law student studying 3 subjects of law all together, I found it quite difficult to finish the readings offered by law faculty. After finishing the readings, we have to prepare for tutorial. The completion of these tasks is already quite a challenge to me. Also, the completion of RMD is compulsory. As a result, students may complete it purely for the sake of completion. Of course, a written assignment of 3000 words should not be difficult for any law student. However, the aggregate workload of assignments in every subject would be terrible for us. I do not mean RMD should be eliminated. For the sake of learning, perhaps it is better the change the deadline of the 1st part to the late December or the beginning of Jan. I am a student who likes to re-read the textbook again after exam on December. And then I can re-read the news collected and decide what legal issues I can discuss. Also, you may also lengthen the news expiry duration to 1 week or 10 days, instead of 5 days. Also, it would be great if we can get some feedback from the work we did. Feel free to discuss with me at wengo@hku.hk if you

need any further comments. Thank you for you teaching throughout the year.

- part a is suggested to be first marked in early january before students start working on part b so as to better ensure that students are on the right track in further delving into the relevant tort liability issues
- as the submission deadline is quite soon, so we cannot do topic on trespasser tort, especially defamation or nuisance as we have not learnt enough, which may limit our scope. but i am not sure if postponing deadline is plausible, so see if there can be any changes regarding this, others are fine
- I have noticed two major difficulties in doing RMD. Firstly, the whole project relies heavily on news reports. As news reports are always not comprehensive enough, the limited facts given may pose a problem in the analysis. Secondly, the requirement of RMD is to include a wide variety of topic. However, it is not easy to be achieved. For example, I had actually collected a piece of news item concerning occupiers' liability when I was doing part A. Yet, as this topic had not been taught by that time and I failed to notice it as a occupiers' liability case and I just regarded it as a simple negligence news. I thought the room for discussion was limited thus I did not include it in part A. It just shows that sometimes it's not easy to spot which item is more worth mentioning, especially part A is done in the first semester and our knowledge in tort law at that time is really limited. I hope the feedback can help you. thanks a lot
- I would suggest providing more time for the RMD students. Since some tort issues have not been fully taught before the submission, such as discrimination, defamation, which are rather common tort issues nowadays, while the research student might have to focus on one topic, the RMD students might have to look for few topics concerning the issue.
- There is difficulty to identify news that involves the topics taught in the second semester. Therefore some of the news collected in Part A could not be used in Part B

- I found this assiginnment very useful. I learnt a lot e.g. spotting out issues, identifying claims. I really enjoy doing RMD, it seems more fun than essay.
- I find it quite troublesome when writing some of the topic that I haven't learned. Before the submission deadline, the lectures just mainly focus on negligence. But you require us to cover a large variety of topics to show our ability to handle different forms of tort law. And I need to study the topics like trespass and nuisance by myself and this may produce some misunderstanding about these topics. Maybe the deadline can be postponed a little bit so that we can at least know more about trespass.
- In fact, I think the time limit of 5 days for Electronic Version of News in Part A would not be constructive at all since so far as the students can generate a report of the news from WiseNews, then I see no point in setting such a limit.
- I think it'd be better if Part A is marked and returned to us before handing in Part B as the issues we have spotted may not be appropriate, leading to a total failure in Part B... thus we may not choose the topics we are interested in. Furthermore, for the topics that haven't covered yet in the lecture, there is an uncertainty that whether we have discussed in depth enough. (as many of us thought it'd be boring if all the items were about negligence and worried there'd be a mark penalty or sth if the marker found them tooooo boring.. always repeating the same thing)
- An invaluable opportunity to apply tort law knowledge into real-life situation and this would increase my confidence in tackling unseen fact patterns on exams.
- i think there could be more word limit for part A because it is difficult to keep, for example, 9 articles, descriptions of background, relevant issues and my own observation in no more than 1000 words. i think there could be a flexibility as regards to the no. of articles used.

- Tutors should have a follow-up meeting after the submission of Part A. More guidance can be given to students as to the issue-spotting part so as to make the RMD exercise more useful.
- Very good learning experience since the facts are not making up but real-life examples which can help students to really apply what they learnt in class to real-life experience. Recommended!!
- Part A was interesting and meaningful. It makes me realize that there are so many potential tort issues around us. Part B was similar to doing an exam or a tutorial problem question. Doing the analyses was difficult as the facts provided from the media source were often not sufficient. I had to make a lot of speculations and assumptions in the analysis and it was hard to take a side and make a conclusion. Overall, I enjoyed the learning experience.
- The RMD project provided me with an opportunity to relate my Tort knowledge to my daily life. It also honed my skills in constructing my own fact patterns (by integrating two or more media reports and conducting extra research) on which my analysis was based. These are far more meaningful and intellectually stimulating than working on typical exam-style problem questions.