

## SELECTING A PAPER TOPIC

Prof. Travis

I will officially “ok” your paper topic after I review your Research Proposal. The assigned article by Heather Meeker and the handout, “Suggestions and Criteria for Papers,” provide general criteria for selecting interesting and workable paper topics. I will consider any employment-related topic that fits those criteria. The key is to find something that truly interests you because you will be spending a lot of time with the topic over the next few months.

The best way to find a good paper topic is to read as much as possible about areas of employment law that interest you. In particular, look for areas in which there are open questions, legal rules in need of reform, or splits in authority. The following is a list of more specific employment-related sources that you may consider to help lead you to a paper topic:

1. Read the entire syllabus for our seminar. Each class assignment includes a brief description of different types of paper topics, which may give you ideas about types of topics to consider for your own paper.
2. Review your class notes from your Employment Law and/or Employment Discrimination Law courses and identify issues that you found interesting.
3. Do several searches in Westlaw or Lexis on employment law topics that interest you. Find and read several overview articles on that area of law, which might help you identify open issues that are worthy of a paper.
4. Peruse the daily entries and archives on an employment law blog, such as: [http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/laborprof\\_blog/](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/laborprof_blog/) or <http://www.lawmemo.com/blog/> or <http://www.elinfont.com/blog/index>. This will keep you apprised of new cases, legal developments, and cutting edge issues that may be worth analyzing in a paper.
5. Peruse past issues of the ABA’s Labor and Employment Law Newsletter at: <http://www.abanet.org/labor/newsltrtoc.html>.
6. Some employment law firms provide their clients with updates on new employment law developments. Many of these firms make these updates available online. Because practicing lawyers are often the first to identify areas of law that are in need of analysis, perusing those updates may give you ideas for a paper topic. Some examples are: <http://www.fenwick.com/publications/6.5.0.asp> or <http://www.downeybrand.com/EmployUpdates.php> or [http://www.dorsey.com/publications/search\\_results.aspx?FlashNavID=pubs\\_search&typeid=3633003](http://www.dorsey.com/publications/search_results.aspx?FlashNavID=pubs_search&typeid=3633003) or <http://www.littler.com/presspublications/>.

7. Peruse the West's case updates for summaries of recent employment law cases at: [http://www.swlearning.com/blaw/cases/topic\\_employment\\_law.html](http://www.swlearning.com/blaw/cases/topic_employment_law.html) or [http://www.swlearning.com/blaw/cases/topic\\_employment.html](http://www.swlearning.com/blaw/cases/topic_employment.html).
8. Peruse the Employment Law Information Network website and sign up for weekly email updates on cutting edge employment law developments at: <http://www.elinonet.com/>.
9. Visit the page on my faculty website containing a list of "Employment Law Resources," which has links to employment law sites: <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/matravis/employment.htm>.