REHB 674 Socioeconomic Costs of Acquired Disability

Instructor: C r e d i t s :  3
Office: Online Class hours:
Phone: Online Office hours:
Email:

Text and materials:


Supplemental materials


In addition, selected readings will be assigned in the following professional journals and references:

Forensic Economics Bibliographies
Readings in Current Research
The Journal of Forensic Economics (National Association of Forensic
Course Description:

Socioeconomic impact of acquired disabilities on individuals, their families, and estates. Data sources and models for determining costs of: lost earnings; fringe benefits; household services; consortium (counsel, safety, care); Life Care Plan needs. Assumptions, methodologies, reliability, validity, acceptable standards of practice.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the relationship between the forensic rehabilitation consultant and a forensic economist or certified earnings analyst.

2. Demonstrate their understanding of economic principles as they apply to varied litigation types in determining economic damages incurred by the plaintiff.

3. Demonstrate their understanding of necessary data needed and which may need to be requested for completing of an economic damages opinion for a case with specified parameters.

4. Describe various issues and concerns that surround the determination of economic damages in a lawsuit, such as growth rates for medical services and items, determination of earning capacity, establishing an employment path pre- and post-injury; and others.

5. Discern the application of various models, data, government references, and other aspects of establishing economic damages, in terms of the ultimate strength, admissibility, and understanding of opinions reached for the court (judge and jury).

Course Requirements and Grading Method:

A. Requirements:

In order to satisfactorily complete this course, the student will:

1. Successfully pass (70% or greater) 4 examinations covering the entirety of course content, including that content included in streamed lectures and threaded discussions. (Student Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)(600 pts.;
60%)

2. Demonstrate application of economic references, databases, models, and practices in determining the present value of past and future damages incurred by an individual who has incurred significant injuries or has wrongfully died. (2, 3, 4)(250 pts.; 25%)

3. Discern and demonstrate understanding and application of various economic damages principles, models, databases, and practices through satisfactory participation in threaded discussions surrounding questions posed on Desire2Learn and/or critical review of a completed economic damages opinion for a specified case. (4, 5)(150 pts.; 15%)

B: Grading Method:

A = 90.0% and above
B = 80.0% to 89.9%
C = 70.0% to 79.9%
D = 60.0% to 69.9%
F = < 60.0%

Course Content and Tentative Schedule:

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2.7 Statistical Data
2.8 A Suggested Economic Damages Expert’s Personal Library
2.9 Checklists for Obtaining Data
2.10 Proper Order of Presentation: Plaintiff or Defense?

3 Past and Future Earnings

3.1 Introduction to Wages and Earnings Loss or Capacity
3.2 Wage Differences Among Occupations
3.3 Demographic Factors and Earnings
3.4 Gender and Earnings
3.5 Race and Earnings
3.6 Age and Earnings
3.7 Geography and Earnings
3.8 Farm Workers Earnings
3.9 Issues with Wage & Earnings Data

Using Statistical Data

3.10 Interpreting Indexes
3.11 Using Union Contracts
3.12 Using Cohort Tables
3.13 The OASDHI Earnings Forecast to the Year 2080
3.14 Inflation Forecasts
3.15 The Employment Cost Index (ECI)
3.16 Measuring 50 Years of Economic Change
3.17 Additional Bureau of Labor Statistics Wage Studies
3.18 State Wage Surveys

Plaintiff’s Employment Status

3.19 The Unemployed Plaintiff
3.20 The Retired Plaintiff
3.21 The Minor Plaintiff
3.22 The Illegal Alien Plaintiff

Other Types of Losses

3.23 Lost Business Profits
3.24 The Wrongfully Terminated Plaintiff
3.25 The Wrongful Birth
3.26 Special Problems in Earnings Data
3.27 Losses in Foreign Currency
3.28 Children Supporting Parents
3.29 Total Lifetime Earnings by Gender and Education
3.30 Perspective of this Module

4 Determining the Value of Employer Paid Benefits

4.1 Introduction to Benefits
4.2 Where to Find Benefit Information
4.3 Specific Benefits
4.4 Summarizing Lost Benefits
4.5 How to Determine the Loss

5 Adjusting for Personal Consumption and Support Factors

5.1 Introduction to Personal Consumption and Support
5.2 Defining Personal Consumption and Support factors
5.3 Combining Various Studies
5.4 Support of Consumption Factors

6 The Value of Household Services

6.1 Introduction to Valuation of Household Services
6.2 What are Household Services?
6.3 Studies of Hours and Wages
6.4 Adjusting Household Service Values
6.5 An Alternative Measure of Household Services Value

7 Life and Worklife Expectancy

7.1 Introduction to Life and Worklife Expectancy
7.2 Where to Locate Life Expectancy Tables
7.3 When to Use Life Expectancy
7.4 Worklife Expectancy Tables
7.5 Recent Worklife Model Innovations
7.6 Recent Worklife Model Innovations
7.7 Information the Economic Damages Will Need to Determine Worklife
7.8 Railroad Employee’s Worklife Expectancy
7.9 The Decline in Average Retirement Age

8 Inclusion of Income Tax in an Evaluation

8.1 First There Was Hall
8.2 Next There Was Liepelt
8.3 The Came Shaw
8.4 Followed by Trevino
8.5 When to Make Tax Adjustments
8.6 Who Benefits from a Tax Adjustment
8.7 Who Really Won
8.8 How to Make the Tax Adjustment
8.9 The Tax Adjustment in Wrongful Termination

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13.3 A Personal Injury Report
13.4 A Wrongful Death and Survivor Action Reports
13.5 A Wrongful Birth Report
13.6 Analysis of Allegations of Discrimination from an Economics Point of View
13.7 A Final Note on Reports

16 Tactics and Strategy of the Attorney

14.1 Does the Attorney and/or the Case Need An Economic Damages Expert
14.2 What the Attorney is Looking for in the Right Expert for the Case
14.3 Instructions to the Expert
14.4 The Written Report
14.5 Deposition Order of Experts
14.6 Preparation of the Expert for Deposition
14.7 Preparation of the Expert for Trial
14.8 Deposition and Cross-Examination of a Plaintiff’s Economic Damages Expert

17 Issues Surrounding Hedonic Damages – The Value of Human Life

15.1 Introduction
15.2 Perspective of this Module
15.3 Reports in the Public Media
15.4 A Sampling of Cases
15.5 Additional Commentary on Hedonic Damages
15.6 Loss of Life Enjoyment – An Economic Report
15.7 Proving Hedonic Damages When Expert Testimony is Not Allowed

18 Special Topics

16.1 General Comments
16.2 Probability vs. Possibility
16.3 Precedence and Forensic Economics
16.4 Work Time Differences
16.5 Commercial Computer Program