

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS
FIRST ASSIGNMENT
VERMONT LAW & GRADUATE SCHOOL – FALL 2025**

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For our first day of class, please read the following:

1. Epstein, Freer, Roberts and Shepherd, *BUSINESS STRUCTURES* (West Academic, 6th ed. 2024), **Preface** (p. v, one page).
2. The two **U.S. Small Business Administration fact sheets** (*Reasons for Starting a Business* and *Frequently Asked Questions*) provided via Teams.
 - a. You will not be tested on these statistics. Just get a sense of the landscape. We will be discussing business ownership and our relationships with business clients more broadly.
3. *BUSINESS STRUCTURES*, **Ch. 1 §§ A-C (pp. 1 – 13)**.
 - a. First class pacing is hard to predict. We may only discuss *Dodge v. Ford Motor Co.* and *A.P. Smith* on Wednesday, but please do read these materials just in case.
 - b. *Dodge v. Ford* assumes you understand what a “[dividend](#)” is. We will discuss dividends at great length throughout the course, but for now, just understand that when a company has money available that isn’t otherwise committed, it can choose to distribute some of it back to its owners (here, shareholders).
 - [Investopedia’s dictionary](#) is a great resource for looking up unfamiliar financial terms throughout the semester.
 - That case also assumes, apparently, that you know what “semi-eleemosynary” means. I had no idea, and don’t think the word will come up again. “[Eleemosynary](#)” means “relating to charity.”

NOTE: ALL SUCCESSIVE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE POSTED TO THE TEAMS “ASSIGNMENTS” TAB. If you are unable to access the Team for the course, please email me.