Welcome to USF Law School and to Civil Procedure! You are not required to know anything about the law before taking this course. Almost everything – if not everything – you study in this course will be new to you. You will learn how a civil lawsuit moves through the court system. You will learn lots of new terms – complaint, cross-complaint, demurrer, summary judgment, subject matter jurisdiction – and will learn even more new rules. By the end of the semester, you will understand civil procedure but your family won’t understand a word you’re saying!

In the first class, we will study the basics of the court system. We will discuss state and federal systems, trial courts and courts of appeal, and the timeline of a civil case as it moves through the court from filing to dismissal.

Please make a copy of the syllabus, posted on TWEN, and bring it to class. Please purchase an I-Clicker 2 Response System, register it, and bring it to class. Additionally, read these materials in our textbook, Glannon, Perlman, Raven-Hansen, Civil Procedure: A Coursebook, (2nd Ed., 2014):

- Chapter 1, “An Introduction to American Courts,” pp 3-18

This course will require your complete attention. For that reason, I ask that you leave your beloved laptops and cell phones behind and take notes by hand. I have found that, as thrilling as civil procedure is, it is no match to the lure of messages from friends or the prospect of shopping for shoes.

I look forward to meeting you first thing Monday morning.