

Legal research: Police power, eminent domain, and the border wall

Objective

The objective of this assignment is to introduce the student to do basic research related to the field of planning law through real life cases of eminent domain and takings.

Instructions

The student will conduct a search of news articles of newspapers that follow professional ethical guidelines (ej. New York Times, Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, etc.). Avoid sources that are not being checked on facts or that have a political and ideological agenda.

The student will do a search on the topic of the border wall and the legal basis that support such governmental action. The student can focus on the following topics:

- Eminent domain and the taking of private property for the purpose of the border wall.
- Police power and the legal arguments (ej. Safety, public health, etc.) that are the grounds for building the border fence since President Bill Clinton.
- Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) by Section 102 of the Real ID Act has been used multiple times to "waive in their entirety" dozens of federal laws so the government can build barriers along the border.

The student will write a 300–500-word summary of the legal arguments found in the different sources.