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# Class of 1951 Fifteen Year Report Addendum

University of Michigan Law School

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R J W

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Law Faculty

FROM: Richard V. Wellman

RE: Addendum to the Class of 1951 Report

One of the questions on the questionnaire sent to the members of the class of '51 asked, "What of your Law School training is contributing most meaningfully to your present job ability?" Rather than attempt to summarize or classify the responses, I thought you might be interested in seeing them as they are copied from the returns. We can identify the authors of these comments if anyone sees a purpose in doing so.

1. Commercial Law, Contracts & Remedies and general legal training in thinking clearly and logically.
2. Excellent courses in substantive law.
3. Ability to approach and deal with legal problems and reach conclusions.
4. Law School attempted to raise me to attack problems one at a time and to select and analyze relevant issues as a means of solving problems. This training never really ends.
5. Study, discipline, quality of teachers, and contribution and competition of students.
6. Taxation, Contracts, Property, Business Associations.
7. Training in organizing factual situations and analyzing alternative solutions.
8. Critical, objective, sustained inquiry.
9. The basic courses in contracts and property familiarizing me with the areas of law and the ways of legal thinking.
10. Case method of study, and general background of the law.
11. Constitutional Law.
12. All "bread & butter" courses, especially those in the areas of contractual, property and business law, and the selection

of remedies for problems therein. Also, the stress upon "practicing law in the grand manner" with emphasis upon professional ethic, integrity and responsibility.

13. General overview of society's functioning for which law provides the basis. Training in analyzing and evaluating situations or problems and knowing how to find the law involved.
14. Courses in real property, trusts and estates, torts, creditor's rights.
15. Training to analyze the facts to determine key legal questions.
16. The ability to analyze a problem and to think it through to logical solutions.
17. Law Review research (which I did not attack too diligently in Law School), Marcus Plant, Bishop; courses on Equitable Remedies (Durfee, Dawson, Estep); Simes on Future Interests.
18. The emphasis placed upon legal theory and the analytical objective manner of identifying and dealing with legal issues.
19. Torts, Remedies, Contracts, Evidence.
20. Courses in Property, Trusts & Estates, Restitution.
21. The entire program; emphasis on analysis of cases.
22. Procedure and quite sincerely, the inspiring environment and associations at U. of M.
23. The critical and analytical approach and, of course, the superb technical training.
24. Contracts, property, evidence.
25. Basic working knowledge of admiralty law, research ability, briefing ability.
26. Use of logic, precise organization of facts to reach legal conclusion.
27. Case system, careful analysis required for class participation and successful preparation for and writing of exams.

28. Contracts.
29. Ability to analyze fact situations, brief cases, and apply the law to the facts.
30. That part of the Law School training that gave me a broad background in the law and taught me to analyze a given set of facts, to determine what the questions involved are.
31. Cannot identify or single out individual aspects of total Law School program.
32. That training which provided an understanding of the development of modern law and legal theories and developed the ability to recognize a legal problem.
33. Analysis of legal problems of the type emphasized more in first year's courses; also, draftsmanship.
34. Case study and analysis of problems.
35. Torts.
36. The discipline required for analysis of problems and the perspective that is encouraged by good teachers.
37. Those courses and teachers which taught one to think, rather than facts.
38. Training to analyze and appreciate the many facets a particular problem or situation may have.
39. Estate Planning and Taxation.
40. The general training in discerning issues or possible problems.
41. Seminar discussions in third year; research in library.
42. Legal research and writing, particularly Law Review.
43. Not to be satisfied with the surface issue, to be inquisitive, to probe for the facts, to compete.
44. Seminar courses such as corporation organization and financing.
45. Training to reason and think like a lawyer.

46. General knowledge.
47. Analytical thinking processes.
48. The challenge at Michigan of association with other students of remarkable academic and personal ability (for the first time in my life I really learned there are those who may be brighter than I); the association and challenge to analyze and think what came from courses such as contracts, property, remedies, and conflicts and from the professors who taught them.
49. Ability to meet and analyze new situations and plan logical or systematic approaches to a solution or final conclusion.
50. Ability to analyze facts and apply the meaningful legal principles.
51. Property, Evidence, Business Associations, Constitutional Law, Trusts & Estates.
52. Ability to research and analyze different aspects of any given question.
53. Analysis of legal problems and the use of a law library to solve them.
54. Unable to specify - general result of school was development of reasonably well disciplined mind.
55. General familiarity with the field of law (1); the ability to condense materials to the essentials and to organize these essentials (2).
56. All of it.
57. Moot court, Commercial property, Equity and security courses.
58. The ingenuity and zeal of the professors in class in changing the factual contexts for legal principles (cases) to illustrate the importance of facts.
59. Property and taxation.
60. The ability to analyze a fact situation, to determine the issue involved, in general, rather than any specific field.

61. Training to organize material, see the issues, and exercise a reasonable judgment.
62. Corporation, Contracts and Remedies, Commercial Law.
63. The confidence gained. The ability to convince clients that you can help them. The experience of having lived among a greater variety of people than was possible at home.
64. Training to think about each situation as unique--minimizing memory.
65. Courses in Criminal Law and Torts.
66. Being trained to put in many hours at work each week.
67. The case study method.
68. Mental organization, analytical ability, precise and concise written evaluations.
69. All of it.
70. The emphasis on history and development of law and the common law, rather than the more immediate practical aspects.
71. I believe that the competition of the students in my class prepared me most for the competition in the general practice of law. It made me aware of the pressures of the law and what it holds for the attorney.
72. Ability to recognize and analyze legal problems.
73. Trusts & Estates, Taxation, Legal Drafting.
74. 1. To analyze and objectively apply reasoning power to a particular problem. 2. Work and prepare.
75. No special area of law school training.
76. Business organization and planning, including taxation.
77. Good foundation in basic courses; exposure to legal materials (library) and well-qualified professors.
78. Knowledge acquired in basic courses; property, contracts, trusts & estates and taxation.

79. The broad base - not any specific course.
80. I can't point to one or two things--Michigan's general training--making one think out problems rather than resulting to memory is most important.
81. An understanding of the nature of the development of law, of its concept and language.
82. Courses in corporate law, taxation and contracts, and law review work (at least at beginning of my legal career).
83. Faculty stress on self initiative in exploring related fields of law.
84. All courses taken are of considerable value. You need all you can get of the courses offered.
85. This question is impossible to answer in two lines. My three years at Michigan were too stimulating and meaningful to be able to single out any specific example or topic.
86. Contracts, Business Organizations, Drafting, Evidence.
87. Federal Estate Tax course.
88. High academic standards by individual teachers who insisted on meaningful analysis of a problem. Insistence on thoroughness on research of authorities.
89. Law Review work.
90. The fact that all subjects were well organized and well taught.
91. Training in legal analysis. Note: more training should be given in "fact gathering," instead of "handing out" facts via appeals opinions.
92. All.
93. Labor Law, Administrative Tribunals, Legislation, Business Organizations, Constitutional Law, Legal Bibliography.
94. Taxation.
95. Courses of a corporate nature, business associations, trade regulations, etc.

96. The broad, over-all background approach to the law as opposed to a narrow technological approach.
97. The over-all discipline in problem solving.
98. Real Property Law--as a course.
99. Real property, contracts, trusts and estates, taxation.
100. Jurisprudence & Evidence; both because of the key importance in them of facts and fact analysis.
101. Courses in Property, Contracts and Constitutional Law.
102. Legal Research and Trial Practice.
103. Training to analyze problems and develop approaches for resolving such problems.
104. The entire Law School education has given me an insight into general business problems not otherwise easily obtained. Specifically, patent law, contracts, taxation and corporation law have led me to think more deeply about specific business problems.
105. Learning to organize and analyze facts, as well as drawing conclusions and principles from these facts.
106. Professional approach to legal questions.
107. Corporation and Restitution.
108. All essential.
109. The method of conducting classes. Discussion of cases in class with the professor always taking the other side. It made the students think. It also made the student realize that independent thoughts were priceless.
110. The overall intensity of the training, with its severe demand for clear, precise logic and analysis is the most meaningful aspect of my law training.
111. The approach to solving problems, analyzing facts, seeking a solution.
112. Broadly, legal analysis of fact situations; recognizing issues.

113. Thorough background and study assignments in all courses.
114. General background knowledge of the "law" in various areas. But the answer to this question would vary from time to time as one progresses in his legal career.
115. Reading cases and discussing effect upon related situations.
116. Seminar courses which included preparation of legal papers.
117. Probably Contract & Corporate background courses--strangely enough the "basics" of all courses keep coming through to keep the specialized practice I am in on course in line with broad legal concepts in all areas.
118. Essay approach to examinations, logical analysis of difficulties.
119. Trial practice, Torts, Evidence.
120. Strong grounding in fundamentals, leading to right reactions to problems in which one has no immediate "expertise."
121. Legal thinking and analysis.
122. Discipline for work developed in order to survive in law school.
123. No specific subject, but rather the mental discipline resulting from such training.
124. The broad coverage of subjects and legal analysis of problems.
125. All of it.
126. Training in thinking logically.
127. Knowledge in Contracts, Property & Corporations.
128. General experience obtained, plus ability to analyze.
129. Law Review work - writing and research.
130. Ability to analyze objectively.
131. Basic freshman (first year) courses.

132. The value of thoroughness.
133. Training in being thorough and in expression. I feel work similar to law review is essential. I would be unreceptive to a student who had such opportunity and turned it down for grades.
134. Training in analysis and reasoning.
135. "Seminar type" work with Professor James in corporate organization course; legal analysis of matters exemplified by teaching techniques of Professors Aigler, Dawson; Law Review work.
136. Analysis of problems and finding solutions.
137.
  1. Overall training to define issues which cuts across all areas of the law is the most important training I received.
  2. Specific background in real property courses, particularly "rights in land" & "securities" as well as federal tax course have been more important in my speciality than other course material.
138. Torts, Contracts and real property courses.
139. The analytical approach to legal problems stressed in the Law School has proved more valuable in the general practice of law than any specific course.
140. Taxation.
141. Administrative Law because of opportunities encountered. But, the broad spectrum of training gave me a wide choice and this was more meaningful.
142. Ability to work.
143. All.
144. No specific subject more than any other. The overall general background taken as whole was the most significant theory.
145. Nothing.
146. Sharpened my ability to write clearly and concisely. Articulate my thoughts. General self-confidence and ability to communicate.

147. No particular course as such; rather the general nature of the entire education.
148. Property and Contracts courses.
149. Case approach; thoroughness of inquiry.
150. I am not engaged in legal work. But I value highly the discipline of a demanding curriculum and the development of analytical abilities. Corporation courses have been of value to me in my work for a corporation where I have posts in organization planning.
151. Exposure to legal research materials.
152. Training in basic legal research and analysis of legal problems.
153. Solid training in legal principles combined with fact determination which, while hardly exclusive with Michigan, is certainly characteristic of its law graduates in my experience.
154. Instruction as to attention to detail and extreme care in analysis of issues involved.
155. Evidence, Torts & Procedure.
156. Property, Tax and Con. Law have made the relation of people to govt. and each govt. unit to each other meaningful.
157. Courses in Contracts, Sales, Bills & Notes, Taxation, Property, Adm. Law, Jurisprudence.
158. The thought process and ability to question developed in Law School have been invaluable to me in my present work.
159. To understand and give proper weight to court decisions.
160. The ability to reason.
161. Development of ability to research facts, formulate alternatives and arrive at decisions.
162. Learning good work habits.

163. Most important are the basic courses is contracts, property, torts and commercial law.
164. Problem solving techniques; no special courses.
165. Legal writing course.
166. Aside from specific course content, two things; (1) the development of a logical, objective and systematic approach to the solving of problems and (2) the development of writing and legal drafting skills.
167. General training to assist in defining the problem and then in realizing the alternatives to solving same.
168. Taxation courses.
169. Torts, Pleading & Practice, Contracts, Property, Business Associations.
170. Learning of need for painstaking thoroughness in research and analysis of problems and cases.
171. Learning how to reason and how to work hard with an eye to the importance of details.
172. The ability to recognize a problem and search for the proper answer.
173. Ability to analyze problems and evaluate issues and to translate same into terms meaningful to lawyers and businessmen.
174. Analysis of legal problems, legal research and writing.
175. The requirement to study independently without available supervision. The necessity to plan, organize and direct one's own efforts.
176. Property Law, Trusts & Estates (Probate).
177. Being forced to think a problem through, not just pull an answer from memory.
178. In general, Law School training taught me to objectively examine problems, weigh issues and determine a course of action.

179. Development of analytical techniques.
180. Freshman Contracts, Restitution, Creditors' Rights, Admiralty--these courses plus general analysis of all legal problems.
181. Constitutional Law-Moot Court or Case Clubs statutory interpretation.
182. Legal theory and reasoning.
183. Class discussions in which the professor sought answers through logic.
184. Ability to root out problem and know what problem is and where to find answer.
185. Attention to details, hard work (including extra hours when necessary) means for a prepared attorney and a prepared attorney presents a good case.
186. Fundamental concepts and reasoning to conclusions.
187. Corporate-business related subjects.
188. The degree, the "magic words" (the language of the law), an analytic approach and very little else (listed in order of importance).
189. Ability to analyze problems and make decisions.
190. Property courses are good for my present job and work.
191. Training to analyze the problems.
192. General training in legal reasoning and exploring ramifications of problem.
193. Happy medium between focus on what law should be versus what law is.
194. Edgar N. Durfee
195. Contracts, Conflicts of Laws, Public International Law.
196. Concentrated work.

197. Everything, I guess -- including the nice atmosphere of the quadrangle which places the law student in a proper frame of mind.
198. Torts.
199. A broad basic knowledge of theory.
200. Commercial Law courses.
201. Very little (too much pressure, too much emphasis on marks) not enough time for realistic approach.
202. Courses going beyond basic case and statute law to teach how to apply law to new problems which might arise in legal practice.
203. Evidence, Civil Procedure, Property (Real), and the conceptual content of all substantive course. Add remedies to the list of most valuable courses.
204. First year courses.