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Class of 1954 Fifteen Year Report Alumni Comments

University of Michigan Law School

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XVIII Postgraduate Information

A. What of your Law School training is contributing most meaningfully to your present job ability?

Real property

Don't know

Residence in the Lawyers Club & association with classmates; no single course.

Ability to analyse facts & proceed to a conclusion. General knowledge of principles of law in many fields.

The process of legal analysis developed by the overall program

Real property, contracts, torts, taxation, restitution, civil procedure

Law Review, Case Club, Constitutional law, business law courses

No single aspect of training can be isolated

Sound grounding in legal principles

Analytical training in seeking out both sides of all questions and marshalling all facts toward best solution.

Taxation courses trust and estate courses

Courses in real estate

Real property, taxation and corporation courses

Socratic method

Analysis of cases, taught methods rather than answers

Basic courses: contracts, torts, property & procedure courses including restitution and remedies

Ability to analyse problems

General training in how to analyze legal problems, plus balanced curriculum

General background all fields,

Evidence and Property

The broad approach is much more helpful to the non-practicing graduate

Class in torts and taxation

Case study approach - legal analysis of problems

The broad areas of jurisprudence, public law, & the common law system as taught in

Labor law; evidence

Property, etc.

Analytical skill, case studies

No specific courses-but method of studying, learning to think & analysis; self-discipline

Tax courses & the basic stuff-contracts, property, torts, con law

Torts, property, contracts, crim. law

Legal analysis

Intensity of study-instructors interested in education-trial procedure course

Case analysis and briefing

The analytical method taught so well by many of the professors

While law school training provides a theoretical background which is always used,

I would say 95% of present ability is based on material learned after law school

Legal knowledge obviously essential. Personality characteristics contributing to successful practice formed prior to law school

Ability to analyze problems and organize alternative, logical solutions

Problem analysis inherent in all case law study

Improvement in reasoning ability-learning how to think

Thorough training in the rationale of the law

High standards of professors

Ability to sort the chaff from the wheat in finding my problem- to quickly get to the issue

Taxation

Jurisprudence and ethics very helpful & meaningful as being a plus over regular law courses.

Training in corporations, taxation, & trust & estates

(Courses in evidence, procedure & taxation

Case analysis, issue recognition, tort & property law courses

Emphasis on the basic concepts of the law rather than the law as applied in one jurisdiction plus the encouragement of the development of an objective analytical approach to the solution of problems

Very little

Case Club, case club judge, moot court

Law school "atmosphere", requiring excellence, thoroughness, promptness, & precision and correctness in thought processes

Case Clubs-very important. Also basic Freshman courses which help develop general legal reasoning ability: contracts, torts, property, con. Law

Thought discipline

Contracts and insurance

Insistence on self scholastic discipline, i.e. mandatory class attendance & proper preparation

The law schools insistence on development of thoroughgoing analysis of problems

Property, Taxation, Estate Planning

Could not isolate particular courses- many were valuable- most important was central training in relevance, logic, clarity in thought and writing.

Vocabulary & concepts

The demand by professors that the student know what he is talking about! There is no better training and no finer discipline than this

se method of study, which teaches legal principles and at same time develops ability to analyze

Training to read and think analytically

Analysis ability gained from Case study

The necessity to analyze carefully and to reason from such analysis

Study discipline

Excellent Freshman and year program - good instructors - good courses

understanding legal methods and processes

Self-discipline; preparedness

Classroom discussion among professors and other students- the exchange of ideas and positions

Law review

Apart from legal knowledge, the ability to think analytically as in the legal issues

General casebook method approach, no specific course

The ability to analyze situations and facts

Teaching of skills in analysing problems, demonstrating full range of the law, demonstration of the growth of the law

An ability to work long hours and to stick to it!

The emphasis on thorough & complete research with detailed consideration of common law background

Analysis- thought - How to approach a problem

Case method of analysis of legal issues

Overall course study

solid substantive indoctrination in the common law; and exposure to a truly broad-based faculty and student body

Ability to analyze a problem

The keen competition and hard work in law school were invaluable - "such is life"

Creating of situations where I had to think

Analysis as a habit of thought; professional attitude toward problems and practice; substantive legal information

All at equal. I am not sure practical courses - pleading, procedure, moot court - contributed as much as theory courses

Ability to think like a lawyer - see issues, etc.

Emphasis, by number of professors, on questioning assumptions and need for careful analysis

Sound knowledge of elementary torts, contracts and property

The casebook method of teaching one to analyze and compare the holdings of different cases on a given subject - as opposed to the hornbook method of learning law by reading about it.

General ability to analyze, to weigh and evaluate arguments

Real property law, estates in land, trusts, wills & estates, fiduciary administration

Discipline of mind

Corporation, taxation, legal writing

Training to think and analyze problems

Procedures, business and corporate law, contracts

Procedure courses

No specific course. General training in legal reasoning

The degree

Training in legal research & law Review writing

Evidence

Training to analyze situations to isolate relevant and operative facts
Teaching method

Analytical reasoning and clear expression

Assuming a basic knowledge of the substantive law and procedure, the training in analyzing a case and the various possible positions regarding a given set of facts is extremely important.

Nothing, my graduate work in taxation at NYU contributes most meaningfully

General capacity to think rationally, i.e. characterize and solve problems

Broad understanding of rule of law

Procedure courses, evidence, moot court

Casebook method and analysis

The quality of analyzing problems, of organizing effort and necessity for careful and thorough preparation are important contributions of my law school training

Teaching method - seminars & discussion groups - legislative research institute

Law Review experience & observing good teaching

Reputation of the institution

Ability to read contracts, determine issues, write briefs

Teaching that gathering all possible facts is necessary before attempting to apply a rule of law

The training to make legal distinctions - distinctions real and not just technical AND training to make comparisons in the law and to determine the bases or reasons for legal opinions

Use of research sources

Business law courses - litigation courses

Trusts & estates, procedure, evidence, contracts, tax law

Case method of teaching

Overall mental training

Taxation, estates, and Trusts

The professors who thoroughly understood and organized their subjects

XVIII (A) cont'd

General emphasis on legal reasoning as opposed to rote memorization
Practical training. Breadth of training which enhances perspective & imagination
in meeting and solving problems
Procedure and torts
High standards of classroom performance
Training in analyzing problems and evaluating approaches on solutions - A
mental discipline
No particular segment - I profited most from learning reasoning ability and
similar attributes
The importance of law in our society and the organization and logic
Contracts, torts, real estate
I find this difficult to answer, since courses in the law school do not or did
not 15 years ago specifically deal with the rights of the poor, as
I am now director of a legal aid corporation.
Overall training in the law and the legal method
Analytical and verbal skills
The thought process
Mental discipline
Inspirations mostly from 2 or 3 fine teachers
Torts, trial practice courses, civil procedures

COMMENTS

- (1) I regard residence at the Lawyers' Club as the single most important aspect of my legal education; without it the law school would not offer nearly the quality of education provided in the past;
- (2) The law school cannot hope to remain one of leading stature if the University continues to discourage admission of out-of-state residents by tuition and otherwise.

I feel learning method, technique, "feel" for law is vital, specialization in one field bad - if you know something about it you can look it up; should have a broad exposure in all fields unless definitely aimed at narrow specialty like taxation, patents or copyrights.

Survey is an excellent idea - not as complete as should be - earnings figures out of date - should go up to at least \$75,000 in D and higher in A,B,C, (016)

My three years at Michigan Law School were three of my happiest. I feel I got an excellent education in an ideal environment. This is not a middle-aged point of view since I have felt this way since graduation.

I am still extremely well satisfied with my legal training at the U. of M. On hindsight - now knowing the direction of my legal problems - I have suggestions, but they are personally oriented and perhaps irrelevant.

I entered law school with a definite goal of pursuing a career oriented to politics and government service. I have been blessed with the opportunity to do so. As a county prosecutor of a county with a population of 400,000 I am required to handle all major criminal prosecutions and represent as their lawyer approximately 40 political subdivisions. As a consequence the range of legal problems is almost without limit. It is very satisfying work except as to compensation which leaves something to be desired. However, I believe my broad training at Michigan prepared me to at least have the audacity to believe I can handle the duties of the office. I am convinced that today the primary power structure in our country is the legal profession. As the country's operation grows ever more complex, the legal profession must meet the problems. I trust the law school is prepared to accept the responsibility.

I would hope that a legal training could be broadened. A person should be exposed to the different vocations and professions where the legal training is important. The legal training (horrible word) should no longer be "training" but of wider scope. People should come to understand more about how lawyers can help solve some of the pressing national and international problems.

Sorry this report will probably be so atypical as to be useless. I was ordered to Michigan by the Army while a Captain (paratroopers), I attended school with all fees paid, plus salary and allowance. I worked on the side, augmenting my salary in any way I could - but primarily because I like to work. While in service I rose from Capt. to Lt.Col. and retired with 21 years active and 23 years pay since. I immediately joined a small firm in an active S. Carolina town and with an undergrad friend who is now Lt. Gov. of my state. We have an agreement limiting the firm to one politician. I left the army with

\$4,000 in debts and I now am about \$100,000. Apparently, I am now a success by civilian standards. We do general practice and are the leading firm in the area (claims, ?) Our work for the poor probably exceeds all other firms in our county - combined. I am most disturbed by two types of young law grads -

- a) those who are so interested in social work that they do not realize that a good, hardworking, g.p. can do as much or more good than a pro "do-gooder."
- b) the security conscious soul who is not willing to try.

If I were to speak to young law students, I would try to sell them on the fun of a general practice, the excitement of the trial and the almost sensual pleasure derived from blocking the unfair treatment of a person so poor in funds, intellect or friendship as to be unable to help himself. I would try to let these young men know that law takes unlimited hours and for a person practicing as we do there is no 8 hour day. As small as our firm is - in a small communiyt - we have a \$6,000 per month overhead. We also have won the largest judgments, get the most interesting cases and subsist on only a few hours sleep. We are 3 partners, 1 associate, and 4 girls.

1. I found XVI A difficult; XVI B even more difficult.
2. I have leaning as to XVIII F, and while it may seem heretical, I am pleased that I do not. I can say this: I would not be unhappy if my child chose law and if he did, I would be pleased if he had a chance to attend Michigan.
3. In XVIII D, the "important" is relative, but I guess I cannot honestly say that I've made an important civic contribution.

I feel that the basic legal education offered at the University of Michigan Law School provides an excellent preparation for any lawyer regardless of his eventual field of interest.

At present I am delighted with the quality and reputation of the Law School, and its curriculum to the extent I am familiar with it. Please do not yield to any pressures which may be brought to bear by "liberal" or "radical" elements in the student body, nor give the philosophies which they espouse substantial representation on the faculty. While the law and lawyers must be responsive to change, it must be orderly, reasoned change, within the framework of our existing legal system.

I have just left the employment I described in the form, and am about to embark on a full-time writing career. I believe my law background will contribute significantly to this vocation. If I cannot earn a livelihood by writing, I intend to return to private practice of law. In the course of my insurance career, I turned down two offers for a municipal judgeship, and had other opportunities for workmen's compensation judicial work, on both trial and appellate levels. I tried workmen's compensation cases for almost seven yeats, then left that job for a promotion to executive rank in the home office of the company. (089)

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I answer "No" to XVIII F only because I don't think my child's choice of a Law School should be influenced in the least by mine and I have no idea what any law school might have to offer in fifteen years. I liked U. of M. Law School very much - had a good time while getting a first rate legal education and am particularly grateful for all this scholarship help that was given me. I hope legal education won't become too "practical" You can and will learn all that later.

Most of the same information could have been obtained from Law School application.

I am deeply indebted to the law school of the University of Michigan for giving me an excellent background in the law which has served me well in various and complex transactions. At Michigan I feel that I received sound grounding in the philosophy of the law which graduates of other outstanding law schools do not seem to possess - For these and many, many other things, I can only say, thank you!

Michigan gave me an education second to none. Particularly equipped me to handle any problem "coming down the pike" and when up against the best. For all of which I am very grateful!.

I would not strongly encourage my child to practice law. I recommend a "rapid Reading" course to all law students.

I always felt that I received an excellent legal education at Michigan, which has enabled me to compete with graduates of any other school on an equal basis I still enjoy practicing law.****

Re XVIII F I would hope that my child would choose a field most satisfying to him, therefore I harbor no hopes. If he (they) should select law, then Michigan Law School should be one law school which he (they) should consider. From my observation, Michigan Law graduates are as well prepared and stack up well against those from Harvard (better than Yale) and exceed in preparation those (with exceptions, of course) of most if not all other schools.

Please don't change the law so much and stop dreaming up "revised rules." Give us a chance to rest and recover! Remember change is not always progress.

The law school should attempt to aid students in their approach to problems and methods of understanding problems. One's natural intelligence is often sufficient if the method is understood and properly adopted. Thought courses!

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to attend Michigan Law School. It was "first class" all the way! - both physically, the student body and especially the faculty.

I would hope that I would desire what was best for the particular child. If I thought the child suited for Michigan I would want him or her to attend there if he or she wished to do so. I think it is a peerless institution, for which I have both respect and affection, and no suggestion for "reform"/

At my urging my wife went to law school after the children were in school and now is a practicing attorney with legal services in the ghetto area of Seattle. Her work is most satisfying to her and indicated an expansion of possible employment in the legal field.

I think in federal service which I'm in, a law degree is not necessary. but it has helped me immensely. I mean the training has helped, not the degree itself. I've just been selected for "fellowship" in the Social Security

XVIII (B) L.S. teachers who contributed most to what is considered the valuable aspects of your Law Schol training?

- Marcus Plant ~~||||~~ |||
- Charles Joiner ~~||||~~ |||
- John Dawson ~~||||~~ |||
- ALLEN** Smith ~~||||~~ |||
- William Bishop ~~||||~~ |||
- George Palmer ~~||||~~ |||
- Paul Kauper ~~||||~~ |||
- Allen Smith ~~||||~~ |||
- Burke Shartel ~~||||~~ |||
- Dean Stason ~~||||~~ |||
- John Reed ~~||||~~ |||
- Durfee ~~||||~~ |||
- Grismore ~~||||~~ |||
- Aigler ~~||||~~ |||
- Paul Kauper ~~||||~~ |||
- L. Hart Wright ~~||||~~ |||
- H. Yntema ~~||||~~ |||
- L. James ~~||||~~ |||
- Simes ~~||||~~ |||
- Frank Cooper ~~||||~~ |||
- All Equal ~~||||~~ |||
- Wm Pierce ~~||||~~ |||
- S.C. Oppenheim ~~||||~~ |||
- Harvey ~~||||~~ |||
- Russell Smith ~~||||~~ |||

Again All at NYU, none at Mich.

Those who encouraged us to analyze a case and to look on the law as dealing with people, and not to consider it as inanimate information in a book

- W.W. Blume ~~||||~~ |||
- Samuel Estep ~~||||~~ |||
- All of them - a great bunch
- B.J. George ~~||||~~ |||
- Freshman course teachers
- A large number, the Teaching was excellent
- Edmund DeVine ~~||||~~ |||
- It would be difficult to single out a few
- Steinbrenner ~~||||~~ |||

Administration, which indicated that in the near future I am expected to be promoted to position of greater responsibility within the organization.

out-of-state tuition costs will probably prohibit my child attending Mich.

Life is too varied for computers and questionnaires

This study should be quite valuable, and I would be most interested in seeing the results.

The general practice of law has been fascinating. It is intellectually stimulating, and the adversary nature of the trial work is challenging. No two cases are the same. Even when the facts appear similar, the personalities are different. The involvement in a wide variety of cases with diverse personalities has been exciting. There is a sense of being needed and helpful and as a result, a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. The hours are long, and ~~xxx~~ at times emotionally exhausting, but it certainly is not boring. As the years go by and the experiences broaden, my interest increases. It is easy to see why the law developed as one of the three learned professions. If I had it all to do over again, knowing what I know today, I would do exactly the same.

To what are you going to correlate number of marriages? to participation in varsity athletics? or to ~~xxx~~ ? outside the USA? I don't believe the DEan (if he knew the law) would insure that income information would be "considered strictly confidential/" It could be subpoenaed. It is depressing enough to supply this information to governmental authorities.

I had difficulty in completing law school at U. of M. Looking back, the determination which somehow, I was able to muster at that time, and completing the course, have made me a better person and attorney.

What about questions in area of whether law school could be doing more for practicing lawyer in continuing education programs?

Legal forensics, research techniques, legal writing, rules of interpretation, general constitutional rules, etc. are important in a law school program. More "How to Do It" and "How To Find It" than what the law is, because of variations from ~~jurisdiction~~ jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Of course in areas where uniform acts have been widely used, the foregoing may not hold true.

I have not answered XIX because I did not begin to practice law until Oct. 1965, eleven years after graduation from Law School. And the past 3 years and a half I have worked on a basis of 3 days a week. So I don't feel that I can answer this part of the questionnaire. For the same reasons I could not answer XI. (191, Woman)

I am not sure of my opinion or feelings on XIII F. Respect for law (not just law and order) is declining. Unless the situation changes opportunities will be limited

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The income questionnaire does not tell the whole story. My investment equities and income, available because of my profession, overshadow my income. ~~In fact, because of investment~~

In fact, I have agreed to a lesser "salary" because of "investment" or "equity" build up - (206)

While in U of M Law School I was turned down financial aid because (1) I was working and making too much money (2) my grades were not high enough. I know that if I didn't have to work because of receiving aid, my grades would have been higher. I hope the standards have been changed to give aid to those who need it rather than the wealthy who have time to get good grades.

I feel, however, that (from what we hear) Michigan is drifting away from training students to be trial lawyers, and if this is true, it is a serious loss.
