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RESPONSES FROM THE MEMBERS OF
THE CLASS OF 1975
TO THE LAST QUESTION ON SURVEY ASKING FOR
"COMMENTS OF ANY SORT ABOUT YOUR LIFE
OR LAW SCHOOL OR WHATEVER"

* * * * *

Lawyers need to learn what is important in life, and Michigan Law School should foster, rather than discourage, doing so. The demand for hours and billings and making big bucks in major law firms is hazardous to family life and the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of lawyers. The race to bill hours probably also contributes to the rate of substance abuse among lawyers.

Major firms would benefit by being more open to part-time, child care leave, and just lawyers who want to bill the old-fashioned 1500 hours per year. I think the quality of client service would improve, the lawyers' health would improve, and the finances of the firm actually might improve, or the lawyers with more spare time could figure out ways to live on less than \$250,000 per year.

I suggest a course or series of lectures about the stresses on family life caused by the over-commitment so many young lawyers make to their work. We had little or no guidance or idea what to expect. Experienced guidance from a counselor familiar with lawyers as clients could be a big help. Thank you.

The questionnaire doesn't seem to be designed to deal with my "second" legal career as a law professor -- one which I enjoyed immensely.

Law school is one year too long. The third year should be used in a required, paid internship.

The questionnaire does not address the concerns of lesbians and gay men.

I look back on my time at Michigan with great fondness. The quality of faculty and colleagues was excellent, and I am grateful for my experience, in law school and out, in Ann Arbor. Keep up the good work!

I think that it is poor policy to favor a person due to race/gender/religion, etc. Rather, all persons should be judged based on their qualifications.

Drug use and family disintegration threaten America. I believe that education is virtually useless, and potentially counterproductive, to stop drug use. Harsh but fair imprisonment policies would be effective. As to family disintegration, welfare and other family support programs promote disintegration and should be phased out in all but a few situations.

I oppose abortion except in the case of physical harm to the mother, incest and rape (reported promptly).

I left the practice of law after five years in part because of a strong interest in business but also because I became disgusted with the profession's use and abuse of the judicial system. As lawyers we have propagated a dispute adjudication system with extremely high costs and equally high risks and rewards. The only consistent beneficiary is the legal profession.

Although I hated the Michigan winter (and I suppose the Dean is powerless in that respect), I found the experience rewarding. In both my legal and business careers I have always found U of M lawyers to be of the highest caliber and moral quality. My treatment by my peers indicates that they harbor similar opinions.

The law faculty, while excellent intellectually, lacked, as a group, real-world law practice experience. This left it unable to discuss and deal with real-life issues (professionalism, dealing with clients, real ethical problems, etc.) faced by many of us in practice. The ivory tower needs more practitioners to complement the scholars.

The two most valuable learning experiences I had in law school were:

-Professor Vince Blasi's seminar on First Amendment law. This seminar was taught as a sort of moot court exercise: the eight students were divided into four teams, each to brief and argue a First Amendment question then pending before the circuit courts. Professor Blasi spent time privately with each student, critiquing his/her appellate brief. Towards the end of the semester, each case was argued, with the remaining students and Professor Blasi constituting the court. In addition to this legal writing/oral advocacy training, class sessions concentrated on various constitutional law issues. The course was professionally valuable and intellectually stimulating. It was, in point of fact, the single best course I had in law school.

-The clinical law program in which I was fortunate to participate. During my first semester, third year, I completed an externship at the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C. Along with other students from five or six major law schools around the country, I worked full-time at this public interest law firm for the duration of the semester. I learned more about the type of work I have, in fact, been doing since graduation during that one semester than in the rest of my law school experience.

By way of explanation for the relatively low level of satisfaction about my law school experience which is reflected in the answer to Question #6, let me say: I loved the University of

Michigan, and I think the Law School is among the best; but the fact is, I disliked law school intensely. This was probably less the result of anything particular about U of M, and more the result of a general impatience with formal education and disillusionment about what I perceived as a lack of social conscience in The Law and much of the curriculum. My attitudes have mellowed somewhat -- but not entirely -- with time.

While I enjoyed college, law school was a grind and I wanted to get out as soon as possible -- I did not enjoy law school although it was intellectually stimulating. Part of the reason for not liking law school was too much homework. Also I had almost no disposable income. My law school classmates seemed most motivated by the opportunity to make a lot of money.

The practice of law is boring, except for the pride of authorship.

In most legal disputes, at least one party is trying to take unfair advantage of the other.

Generally speaking, the US judicial system is an effective means of dispute resolution, especially compared to other countries.

I think law schools should do a better job of teaching ethics and professionalism. Students should understand that they do not have to take every case and they do not have to espouse every ridiculous position a client wants. Young lawyers receive such little training after graduation due to the economic structure of law firms today, that schools need to take on a greater role in situation ethics, etc.

If I had it to do again, I would seriously consider a different profession. The pecuniary rewards of law practice in relation to the effort expended have proven disappointing, and the non-pecuniary rewards no greater, than could probably be obtained from an alternative such as engineering.

The need to market services aggressively in a highly competitive environment was something for which I had virtually no preparation or predisposition.

By attending a superior law school with bright classmates, I was challenged to think critically and to adapt. These skills are necessary to survive in today's world.

Felt a sense of alienation from Michigan because of school's size; seemed like top students always had a niche (law review, work for profs) but the rest of us didn't. I've never felt close to the Law School because of that.

I was pleased with the substantive legal education I received. That is the bottom line.

I also recognized, only in retrospect, the high calibre of the faculty during the time I spent in Ann Arbor. It was only as I matured that I recognized the national reputations of many who taught me.

I still have a very strong appreciation for the U of M education.

I have found that over time, as it passes and I grow older and wiser, the name recognition becomes more prominent and the methodology of teaching at U of M Law School becomes ever more valuable. The ability to think, intellectually react quickly and to be evaluative and analytical were all hallmarks of the law school curricula. Each concept and principle has continuously served me well and benefited me enormously. I was blind to the importance of the methodology while a student but the indoctrination took and the fruits are not mine as a consequence.

The Law School is a tremendous asset to the State of Michigan and to all the world as men and women continue to be the proud recipients of the School's great teaching talent.

My clinical experience was invaluable. I hope the Law School has become less hostile to it.

To amplify a couple of my answers --
In the past 10 years I have been in the computer science field. I obtained an M.S. and am now completing my Ph.D. Some of my academic work has involved applying artificial intelligence to law, but I have no interest in ever actually practicing law again.

I believe a strong clinical program is an asset to any law school. I would strongly recommend additional emphasis on writing and document preparation as part of the law school program. This can be done without diluting the traditional law school emphasis on "mind training." Both the clinical program and the additional writing and document preparation will add to the law student's ability to be creative and useful in today's world.

Giving due regard to my responsibilities to my family, church, and charitable organizations, I am comfortable with my level of financial support to the Law School. The cover letter for the survey is very nonspecific and obviously intended to be benign. But give credit to your audience -- well-trained U of M attorneys -- the survey is intended to assist you in financial campaigns. [Editor's note: Not so. The responses on this survey are not shared with the Law School Fund or any other fundraisers.] I am bothered by the number of fellow graduates who do not contribute at all! I do value the Law School and hope that it will be a leader in assisting with our profession's questionable future -- we outnumber all other professionals and our professionalism and livelihood are clearly in doubt. As student enrollment and

financial pressures increase, I hope the Law School can take the courageous step of reducing the student population. Your present and future alumni will ultimately be grateful as professor-student ratios are reduced, quality of faculty (with satisfaction level) is maintained in smaller numbers, and a graduating senior is provided greater opportunity to follow through on career goals as competition is managed.

While vast majority of court-appointed criminal defense attorneys are highly ethical, a minority of retained drug and organized crime attorneys are not. They get a disproportionate number of major cases, and tend to set the standard and tone of criminal defense.

Law school was very intense. I found that I had less time to enjoy life during law school than in any other period of my life to date. Law school did a good job of teaching me how to think and how to analyze legal problems. As a practicing trial attorney, there is no question that my trial practice course was by far the most beneficial course I took during law school. I lost both of my trials during the semester but, as a result of the experience, managed to win my first several trials in private practice. I wish I had had more time to get to know my classmates but they were pretty busy, too, and, being married, I wanted and needed to spend my available spare time with my wife. I have no proposed solution to this problem. All in all, I have no real complaints about my law school experience. Michigan gave me my money's worth and then some.

I continue to believe that a lawyer learns his/her "trade" not in law school, but only thru practical experience. Law school should be a place where one is intellectually stimulated -- and exposed to the intellectual and moral concepts underlying the law -- and its practice -- in the classroom. The classroom is really not suited to much else. I believe, however, that law schools can and should give students a "head start" on their practical experience by mandating a clinical component -- if only to make sure that the students are not so totally instinctually amoral or "aethical" in a practical setting that it would be inappropriate to give them the degree that is a necessary prerequisite to getting their bar card. I am truly appalled at what 8 years of Reaganistic selfishness have wrought in the way of cutthroat, money grubbing, dishonest young lawyers. The law schools should be countering these instincts -- by refusing to graduate these people -- rather than encouraging them! At least the "gunners" in the class of '75 paid lip-service to an obligation to be (at least) honest, and even a little socially conscious (!). I do not see that in the recent law grads who I see practicing today, on the whole.

Caveat: I practice in a place where we see very few U of M grads -- so I don't know if my observations are relevant. I fear they are, however!

I received a great education and I am quite contented and happy practicing law. I find lawyers to be admirable people, as a whole. As I spend more time in litigation, I'm aware that people's perceptions are colored by their interests, but most people are honest and fair. Life is a lot of fun for me.

I can't believe I get paid this much to have this much fun! All those hours at the IM Building playing basketball and in the Lawyers Club playing pinball have really borne fruit!

The attached questionnaire shows I conduct an administrative law practice specializing in energy matters. By and large my administrative law course was much too abstract for me to understand what the practice is really like and what administrative lawyers do. There should be clinical experience opportunities for those interested, the basic course should have a more pragmatic bent.

I am constantly reminded of the high regard with which the legal profession holds of Michigan Law School graduates. I'm proud to be an alumnus of U of M. I've been trying to get summer help from U of M law students who may come from the northwest Indiana area. Is there some way I can list our firm with the Law School? My previous attempts seem to have fallen thru the cracks in the placement office. Could you send out a notice to alumni as to what we should do to get on a permanent list of available summer openings for 1st and 2nd year law students?

I practiced law for less than a year. I found out I loved the law and hated the practice of it. Nevertheless, I would not want to have missed my legal education. I'm a better person because of it.

Law school was a rigorous and somewhat distasteful experience for me. It could be much better if:

1. Some time was spent at the outset explaining the peculiar method of testing -- i.e., issue-spotting examinations rather than sorting issues and emphasizing and carefully developing the most important ones
2. Career counseling -- expectations of employers of different types in course selection
3. Encouragement of professors to have greater external contacts with students -- to function as not just teachers of law (and to do research) but also to function as mentors

I suspect some of the difficulties came from being a first generation college and graduate school student (and not having the network of family and related contacts that could perform some of the above functions) but I also believe that many of our class would have benefitted from additional intervention along the lines described above.

My most satisfying times were as a clerk and now as a lawyer

putting concepts into action. It was those contacts that eventually provided the network that got me through school and out here as a practitioner.

You are doing a good job. Carry on.

Law school was a waste of my time and money (I paid for it out of my personal savings that I squirreled away during 3 years in the Navy). The biggest disappointment was the prevalence of aggressive and somewhat hypocritical kids, who espoused "help the little guy ideals," stabbed their classmates in the back, and then sold their souls to the corporate practice law firms. But these problems are not unique to University of Michigan -- they are rampant in other law schools. Nor is the law school the only professional school where the back stabbers go, medical schools are probably just as bad.

As for life after U of M. Thank God I had good aptitude and education in mathematics, and the patience and time to return to a quantitative science. Your questionnaire cannot, and does not, capture the nature of my professional life today.

Thanks for doing the surveys. It's good to know all this.

I relish the independence of private law practice, the absence of corporate politics. It is a playing field on which I can compete. The Law School provided entree to that privileged world.

I'm very glad I went to law school. It was a second liberal arts education in addition to preparation for a good career.

Practicing law has brought rewards in the form of grateful clients and protection of the public interest; it has given me the satisfactions of preparing and conducting trials and having fun with language in briefs. I am struck by how much most of my colleagues sacrifice for greater income, however. Excessive devotion to career doesn't appear to produce benefits commensurate with the costs. So many seem to forego non-career pursuits to meet obligations in firms. Somebody at the Law School warned about this once. At the time, it seemed odd that we would need to be warned to take time to have fun. I'm pleased to have learned that lesson independently, and to have heeded it fairly well. There is much to learn to do outside of the law.

In retrospect, the value of law school lies not in substantive training but in contact with wise and capable faculty members. I wish I had drawn on this resource more often as a student, but at the time it seemed as though mastering the material was more important. As a result, much of my education could have been accomplished almost as well by a correspondence course. The Law School ought to arrange ways for students and faculty to interact more.

Despite having learned some things too late, I'm forever grateful for having had the opportunity to attend a justifiably distinguished school.

My most compelling memory of law school and, indeed, my high school and college years, is the total and absolute lack of support and encouragement for women to achieve a law school education. During those years, when I was deliberating on my future career plans, the consistent message was that women did not and could not possess the skills necessary to be good lawyers. For example, I was told during interviews with many big name law firms that women could not satisfactorily perform in my chosen field of labor law. That message was wrong, but it created a tremendous barrier.

I have been practicing law for the entire fifteen years since my graduation. For the past four years, I have worked part-time due to childcare demands; I will return to full-time work in the fall. I believe that I perform a valuable service for my clients and that I am a good lawyer. I hope that my career and experience has helped to break down the barrier.

Law school was a great experience for me. Never before or since have I been surrounded by so many smart people. Adversity (such as surviving a single semester 5-hour Property course and Mayor Bob's midlife crisis during his Contracts course) built friendships that still survive even though I may see classmates only once a year or less as they pass through town on business.

While there is no substitute for experience, law school taught me the fundamental analytic skills upon which to build a successful legal career, and more recently, to move over to the business side. I learned more in law school about solving problems than I ever realized while I was there.

I never thought I'd be too busy to reflect on where my career since law school has taken me, but I am. Memories are a luxury of retirement, and retirement is becoming more and more thoretical as the years pass by.

Work remains challenging, though budget problems create difficulties. The cynicism of Reagan years is somewhat less.

The law school experience needs more emphasis on practical legal practice, e.g.:

- Contracts: Actual drafting
- Research: Mandatory Westlaw/Lexis and manual research
- Complaint drafting (all types), pleadings: Answers etc. in every area of substantive law
- Trial work
- Criminal practice

Re the above: most students thought like lawyers by end of year 2; year 3 should be much more practical in focus; the Law School

should take a more active and aggressive role in turning out trained lawyers and not just "thinkers."

The courses that were most beneficial were the ones taught by profs who "wrote" those laws. People like L. Hart Wright in Tax.

Students in other institutions miss a valuable experience and insight and preparation for the future in learning from those removed from the caliber of profs Michigan can attract.

Attracting more of this type prof should remain the Law School's highest priority.

I felt that an excessively competitive environment at U of M Law School significantly detracted from the educational and social experience, at least for me. I do not recall my years there fondly, although some longstanding and close friendships were formed.

I also felt that the School did not prepare the student well for the actual practice of law in the practical sense, leaving much training to the early job experience of the new lawyers.

I think law schools graduate too many lawyers, and society litigates too much. Law and politics become an intellectual game for bright lawyers, but ordinary people have to deal with the ridiculous laws that result. For example, even if one assumes that every complexity in the tax code is justified by some intellectually "fair" rationale, both fairness and the perception of fairness are lost in the burden of the complexity. Job security for attorneys is no justification either. Quality should be the basis of security, and it should be measured in terms of quality of contribution to the greater values of societal need, not intellectual quality for its own sake.

So much for my soapbox. Law school was an exciting, intellectually stimulating growth period of my life, and it helped me learn to think and understand a much broader spectrum of ideas, values and life styles. In turn, this education has enabled me to enjoy a successful and prosperous career.

I learned how to think in law school. Professor Sax would ask, "what purpose is served by this rule" after we examined each of the different rules in Torts. That approach has helped me throughout my life.

I was a smart, energetic student who caused no trouble. Prior to law school (including grad school at U of M) I formed many personal relationships with my teachers. At the U of M Law School I had the decided impression that not one of my (non-visiting) professors had the slightest interest in me. My two visiting professors were accessible and friendly. Then and now I doubt the value system and, ultimately, the value of the scholarship of a group of teachers who find so little of worth in

the personalities of the vast majority of their students. A concept of law which is not based on an emotional valuing of human beings is but an intellectual theory not anchored in the reality of humanity.

My principal criticism of U of M Law School was (when I was there) and is even more now that I recruit from there that its faculty has far too little interest and experience in what 95+% of its graduates do -- i.e., practice law. Although courses like Con Law and Fed Courts are stimulating intellectually and good training for thinking like a lawyer, we have far too many faculty in those areas and far too few faculty and courses in commercial law. We need more faculty who have actually practiced, as opposed to just clerked and/or taught -- because unless they've been in the real world, courses like Comm Trans are too theoretical and the students never grasp their relevance. Since Dean St. Antoine, we have lost our sense of the real-world application of legal education -- and we need it back.

I suggest that all 1st year law students be assigned a "Big Sister" or "Big Brother" to help them through the stress of the 1st year.

It would also help to have more social events to allow faculty and students to meet in a non-threatening situation.

Although I enjoy being a lawyer (most of the time!), the increased pressures to bill, collect and work harder make the legal profession (at least in private practice) less and less pleasant.

Law school, and my subsequent career, have certainly been intellectually stimulating and very interesting. However, I'm still not sure if it's worth the stress and personal grief.

My work is interesting and intellectually stimulating, and has been very financially rewarding. However, much too much of my time is spent working. I hope to retire early in order to have more time to spend on hobbies and traveling.

The U. of M. Law School lived up to every expectation that I had about law school. It was the most satisfying and rewarding experience of my life (other than my children).

As a victim (during childhood) of the ideological hegemony inflicted on our poorer economic classes, I used to believe that lawyers were smarter, harder-working, or possessed some other quality that entitled them to the income, status, and power they enjoy. Only by ascending the hierarchy was I able to learn that they are indistinguishable from my childhood friends who are now in prison, dead, or worse, except that they tend to be more arrogant, self-important, and greedy. The Law School does a reasonably good job of producing parties to this savage conspiracy; I have no alternatives to suggest, because I have not

been able to find even my own praxis. But you did not buy, blind, bribe, or anesthetize me, and I continue to hope that the system will collapse, through compassion if possible, through violence if necessary.

The content and pedagogy of my law school courses were deplorable. I did not realize how much I should have been exposed to and how my teachers should have taught until I left law school. In 1975, not to have been taught the Coase Theorem in any course is criminal. I never had a teacher who encouraged me to be imaginative about the law. Isn't that terribly depressing!

I would like to see mandatory CLE in Michigan, as it is in other states. Law school is just the beginning, the Foundational Building Blocks. We must be perpetual students. Unfortunately, the realities of practice and billing provide too strong an excuse to avoid CLE and, in turn, the CLE offerings are not always the best. We need to be motivated to continue the learning experience and mandatory CLE is probably the best realistic motivator.

After fifteen years, I find the intellectual stimulation, the constant variety and the rewards of solving hard problems, all of which are inherent in law practice, to be at least as attractive as when I started. On the other hand, the competitive pressures, the diminishing returns and the partnership politics of large firm practice are wearing and take much of the overall satisfaction out of the job. In short, lawyering is great but business is hard.

In retrospect, I am satisfied with the reputation the Law School brought to my credentials, but am dissatisfied now with the Administration's and Faculty's lack of concern and interest in Law School Alumni as I was with their general distance and similar posture when I was a student.

Addressing duties to society, to the economically disadvantaged and enhancing skills at writing law school exams are not the only legitimate functions of the Law School.

The Law School should focus on making its students, from the top of its class through the middle to the bottom, more successful, happy and better lawyers. The Law School should sustain a more active presence in continuing legal education.

Elitism as a reflection of our Faculty's and Alumni's accomplishments is one thing, but elitism as a result of distance between fellow Alumni, and between Alumni and the Faculty and Administration is quite another.

Too often the Faculty and Administration are perceived to honor and feed on the narrow lifestyles of the sorts of lawyers who find no room in their lives for much beyond their profession, the

often too accurately type-cast "workaholics," and ignore or dishonor by near silence equally legitimate lifestyle goals of Alumni who have other interests.

True, humanity is slowly creeping back into the dialogue, but perhaps too little, and all too late for the tastes, I presume, of many Alumni who feel that a distance exists between themselves and the interests of the Administration and Faculty.

I greatly appreciate your inquiry, and hope that these comments will be considered with open minds. Challenging the fabric of an institution is often not popular or well-received.

Teaching should not principally focus on making the student like, and measuring the student in, the instructor's own image. This Law School and its Faculty owes a duty to all (defined to include each and everyone) of its Alumni to improve their skills, cultivate their abilities, and to improve their professional experience. Possibly more Alumni would be more active in participating in and supporting in financial and non-financial ways if they perceived the distance to be bridged.

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend U. of M. Law School.

About law school -- I think law school education should be classroom education and I do not see the value of clinical law education. However if one examines British legal text books it is apparent that American legal texts are artificially dull and deliberately obscure.

About law practice -- I think Michigan legal education prepares the graduate for law practice better than most other places. However no law school adequately prepares its graduates or does nearly as good a job as it is capable of doing.

About legal educators -- Legal educators as a class are a smug, self-satisfied lot who attempt to change their images to suit the mood of the decade. I think Michigan could do a better job of setting the role model of a legal educator. A legal educator should be a person with an insatiable burning curiosity about what makes an organized society run. Why is one rule of law superior to another rule of law? What is the role of the advocate in shaping laws? What are an advocate's ethical obligations? What should constitute the advocate's philosophical views? How would a problem be handled in different jurisdictions? How can society change? If society changes how will rules of law change in their application?

A legal educator who genuinely burns with curiosity will produce interesting research and absorb his/her students. A genuinely curious educator can pare down the volume of the material he/she gives his/her student to something a 23-year-old can reasonably handle. A curious educator is an attractive person.

In my life, legal educators (with a handful of notable exceptions) have been a disappointing lot. They could have been better selected and chosen. Somebody should try to upset the ones who are there now. An effective legal education is an enjoyable one.

The further removed I am from the Law School context, the more I appreciate the education, training, milieu, environment and total context thereof -- even though I thoroughly enjoyed the experience while there. And maybe this is just the "golden glow" that one puts on anything from the past, where we cannot go again.

My life has been extraordinarily successful, both professionally and financially, in the past 15 years, and much of that success is no doubt due to the fact that I went to Michigan ... for which I will be forever grateful. It was a good time, and I have tried to bring that spirit to the Law Clerks and young Associates that we have had in my firm or my wife's firm through the years. It is a great "endowment" to us all, a lasting legacy. I have enjoyed the benefits of this gift through the years, and have tried to repay in my own small way. My children may continue to pay back in the future by contributing their own (not insignificant) talents.

I found law school to be a very difficult experience. There was very little feeling of comraderie among classmates or willingness of professors to extend themselves to offer assistance. My results academically were spotty and disappointing to me since I had excelled at school until then. I never seemed to get the hang of it.

Being from Michigan Law School has always been a very positive aspect of my career, notwithstanding my experience there. Indeed, the esteem in which I appear to be held by many stems in very large part from the fact of my graduation from the U. of M. Law School. The balance seems to come from my own performance as a lawyer. But without the U. of M. credential the opportunities I have had in my career to demonstrate my abilities would have not been available.

In the final analysis, I look upon my experience at U. of M. as one which better prepared me for the realities of professional life, the competitiveness associated with trying to develop a successful career and the seriousness of the profession of law.

I would recommend making clinical law a requirement.

There is little "classic" law practiced in Washington, D.C. by lawyers either in trade association, government, or firms. Nevertheless, Michigan provided an excellent foundation. The courses taught us how to think, write, and, perhaps most importantly, understand how our government and economy work and

inter-relate.

By the way, courses on taxes and business planning are more important as background for creating workable and effective environmental laws than are administrative law courses -- environmental considerations are now an integral component of virtually all major (industrial) business planning.

Law school was like pledging a fraternity -- it's a phase you have to go through if you want to practice law.

The Law School should offer a business management course -- to help prepare those students who opt for a solo or small firm setting to handle the business aspects of such a practice.

I always felt that the Law School should have more courses devoted to public interest/poverty law. Although U-M taught the fundamentals that I use daily well, I felt extremely alienated at times because the focus was so geared to corporate practice. Law schools should offer more to students who wish to pursue "justice" for the unfortunate in our society which can be a very noble pursuit indeed.

It might have been worthwhile devoting more curriculum time to introducing students to the experience of servicing clients. This is an aspect of legal work that can be very satisfying but is given little consideration in law school.

More discussion about pro-bono work -- how much is done and any traditions of lawyers being expected to do some -- would also be useful.

Although I am pursuing a very different career (as a hotel operations and development executive) than I expected when I entered Michigan, my law school experience, as well as the law firm practice which I entered for five years upon leaving, have been extremely strong factors in my business development. These experiences have opened doors, established a presumption of credibility, as well as providing an important array of skills which I use extensively.