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Class of 1969 Five Year Report Alumni Comments, Part 2

University of Michigan Law School

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Class of '69 - Responses to VII B:

General ability to think, reason, argue, etc.

1. Rigorous training in the skills of analyzing, distinguishing & synthesizing-necessary to function with within legal process. 2. Rigorous training in legal writing; 3. Demand of school for excellence.

Research assistant to law professor.

Writing experience obtained in moot court programs and in term papers for seminars

Can't isolate anything in particular.

Training in tax and training in methods of research & technical writing.

Corporation, tax, & commercial law courses.

The general regimen of extensive reading & rigorous analysis has contributed most meaningfully to my career.

I am quite happy with the preparation I received from my courses at U-M. The balance of courses & the quality of the instructors were excellent. I miss it; I'm in the Wayne Master of Law program right now.

I am unable to credit any particular aspect of my law school training. I consider all of my law training at U-M to have been valuable.

Emphasis on analysis & thinking throughout the curriculum, rather than any particular course or activity.

I strongly feel law school did not prepare me for the actual practice of law in a private practice.

General course work which lead to an understanding of legal reasoning.

Wide variety of courses, particularly more rigorous courses as TAK, commercial law, labor law, gave needed wide background for general litigation.

General analytical training.

Corporation, securities, business planning & commercial law courses, & our then non-credit writing & research courses.

The great benefit of law school was not that I learned substantive area of law, but that I learned methods of legal dialectic & analysis - and most of this kind of education was acquired from the best professors (St. Antoine, Kennedy, white, and one or two others.)

Not a single area of law school training which has made significantly greater contributions than other areas.

Thought process acquired in law school - wide range of electives in general corporate areas.

Third year classes in Estate planning, Business planning & taxation.

1. Peer competition. 2. School emphasis on legal theory & the role of the legal process in the physiology of our society.

Labor Law courses; general thrust toward defining issues and their resolution which is inherent in a law school curriculum.

Research.

Civil procedure.

The research & writing skills which I learned on the Law Review.

The requirement imposed by professors and peer group pressure to use self discipline & hard work to obtain objectives.

Courses in taxation, estate planning and related areas.

General analytical skills.

The legal methodology taught as opposed to the material itself taught.

The overall repeated training in a method or concept of legal reasoning; the specific content of the basic courses is essential but not the most meaningful.

Confidence in ability to cram. I wish I had been able to obtain more experience in how to cross examine, how to run a trial, how to file and argue a motion, etc. while in law school.

General training in legal analysis - Law Review.

That horrible first year of disciplined legal reasoning.

Courses in international law, international trade, comparative law, taxation, contracts, corporate law and commercial transactions. Based on my present experiences, my course election was well balanced & perfectly suited to my job.

Academic as opposed to practical. Capacity to think like a lawyer more important than any course content.

The case method - ability to spot issues.

Commercial law courses.

The tax courses and general high caliber atmosphere at Mich.

Courses focusing on discrete bodies of federal and/or state statutory-based law (e.g. Corporations, Antitrust, Labor Law); law review experience (writing & organization; editing)

Excellent instruction - regardless of the subject matter.

Class of '69 - Responses to VII B:

Courses such as creditors rights, commercial transactions, corporations, ~~xxx~~ securities, tax, etc. have been most directly applicable to my current practice, but I believe the elusive process of learning to "think like a lawyer" is of paramount importance - and it's difficult to say how it occurs.

Understanding of underlying bases for legislation and common law; public policy. Also, the need for hard work in law school.

It would be the general overview of the law obtained and the exposure to the legal reasoning process, rather than subject matter which is traceable to a particular class.

The chance to be a member of classes taught by a series of superior legal educators. It is now more how they taught than what they taught that tells a teacher value.

My tax courses from L. Hart Wright - His enthusiasm & approach to tax law provided me with a tremendous lift which gave me the desire & drive to specialize in this area- before I took his courses I was floundering in a murky sea of uncertainty as to what my future goals were and whether I even wanted to practice law.

The general understanding of law in general & the legal approach to problem solving.

Teaching of basic approach to legal analysis; demand for precision & thoroughness

Bishop: Conflicts & International Law; 2. Stein: European Institutions;
3. Gray: Civil Law; 4. Pooley: Contracts; 5. Steinheimer: Commercial transactions

Torts, commercial transactions, antitrust.

Training on how to think & analyze a problem logically & then how to find an answer.

Good basic development of skills relating to analysis of legal problems, of all types. Too many attorneys I see attack problems by rote.

Probably torts. That's the only course I remember where the analysis started with the facts, not the legal theory.

Administrative law.

✓ Very little has been helpful. Michigan Law School does not prepare a new lawyer well for practicing law - especially with respect to trial work and the "ins" and "outs" of court system.

No particular course, but rather the thought process and ability to comprehend and analyze legal problems stimulated at U. of M.

What training?

Disciplined analysis of written argument.

The ability to analyze and to think critically - skills which came as much from the challenging environment of the law school as they did from the study of any given subject matter.

Basic knowledge of law & ability interpret cases & write legal Memoranda & briefs

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Contracts; emphasis & demand by U-M professors that written communication of legal concepts is basic to successful work in the law.

1. Contacts with certain professors (but constitutional law professor & course were less than inspired) 2. Profe Sandalow's Local Government Law , & federal courts & jurisdiction courses were inspired.

Research technique making it possible to explore areas of the law not formally studied in law school.

I believe that the approach & general techniques used in legal analysis are most important.

Legal writing (should not be taught by new law school grads though), constitutional & admin. law courses, civil proc.

Law school adequately prepared me to recognize legal issues & to resolve those issues through the use of legal tools, such as statutes & case law as well as what I will call "lawyer-like thinking." Law school did not adequately prepare me in my specialty (although I doubt if any educational process alone could) nor in non-legal areas, such as negotiating.

The fact that the faculty developed & encouraged active participation in the subject matter. This served to motivate & inspire hard work, individual initiative, persistence & convictions which is a most distinguishing characteristic of a ~~&~~ U-M law graduate.

Spending my time in other than going to class.

Law Review

I cannot identify any area which stands out as contributing the most. The entire process of learning to think & write in legal terms relates to my present position.

Law Review

Work on Prospectus and in Legal Aid

General legal theories taught in law school.

The mental discipline & the thrill of law.

Moot Court & legal research & writing.

Training in objective problem solving; some background knowledge in contracts, torts, due process.

Ability to analyze problems.

Responses to VII B: What of your law school training is contributing most meaningfully to your present job ability?

First year education in applying rigorous analysis to unfamiliar bodies of substantive law--learning to "think like a lawyer"

✓ 1. Civil procedure course; 2. trial practice course; 3. Conflicts of interest course

✓ Basic first and second year courses that gave me a general legal background

In general, the habits, discipline and organizational systems developed in law school. Specifically, the tax courses.

Nothing specifically; rather the overall thoroughness and excellence of instruction gives one the ability to cope with matter not specifically treated in law school or matters encountered only there.

✓ An ability to discriminate among competing rationalizations. Also, the degree creates an impression of credibility.

The most important contributions are the further development of a method of logical analysis, an ability to recognize issues and skill in advocacy.

✓ Clinical law program and criminal law courses.

Classroom discussion and legal writing.

Legal research and writing; procedure and evidence; torts, workman's comp. and medico-legal problems.

Ability to dig into a problem and solve it through brunt thinking and supportive research.

Training to recognize and analyze legal problems.

Lawyer as a Negotiator Seminar; Satisfaction & Confidence gained from attending such a fine law school; Assn with Prof. White while in law school; "study group" sessions with friends.

Identification of legal issues. Organizing & dealing with large numbers of facts.

✓ UCC; Procedure, contracts, real property.

Law Review (writing & editing skill development, opportunity to deal with faculty members on a personal as well as professional level)

I am unable to point to a specific course or area but value the overall educational approach. Practice is, of course, quite different.

In general, both class situations and informal discussions in which concepts were vigorously promoted and assaulted.

acquiring "information" about any particular area of the law. Thus, I believe that courses which are difficult intellectually are far more useful than "how-to-do-it" courses.

✓ A good background in procedure.

Training from basic courses in first year of law school.

No specific courses or law school experience.

Legal research & writing course.

✓ Estate tax course & estate planning seminar.

✓ Research skills & training in taxation & business law.

The ability to analyze problems, spot the important issues, and develop the proper approach to solve them.

Knowledge of basic principles of law.

U.C.C. type courses most helpful - practically every course has had some applicability however.

As a practical matter, I utilize the training provided by the procedure & evidence courses most often. However, the entire course offering of the first year helped develop the discipline of problem solving which is used daily.

General training in how to think like a lawyer and do legal research and statutory & case interpretation.

I believe that the lively competition of a bright group of individuals gave me the best preparation for the practice of law.

Having the experience of being forced to attain high standards of scholarship & work product. Also, exposure to an excellent faculty.

1. Seminar - The Lawyer as a Negotiator; 2. Case Club; 3. Traditional courses

Can point to nothing in particular-my legal training seemed geared far more to the private practice of law.

Ability to absorb large quantities of different factual descriptions & apply them to legal standards.

✓ Estate planning & taxation courses where emphasis is on understanding systems as opposed to becoming familiar with certain code sections, rules, statutes, etc

Legal reasoning & familiarity with particular legal terms & concepts.

The independent research I conducted either in connection, peripherally, with a mandatory subject or as part of a special seminar assignment.

Class of '69 - Responses to VII B:

Research and writing experiences, including case club activities and employment as a research assistant.

How to find a law book and read cases.

My ability to analyze the fact situation and discern the correct issue.

Obviously those courses most closely related to my present areas of practice are those I use the most, but most of my courses contributed to my present job ability. Those courses which combined the academic study of a field with some work relating to applying this study were particularly helpful.

✓ Criminal law; civil procedure.

✓ Commercial and contracts law.

✓ No one course, rather the regimen of being a law student and the development of respect for the system of laws and use of that system as a framework for decisions, opinions and recommendations.

✓ "Core courses" for reasoning - securities, antitrust & U.C.C., etc. for content.

Research techniques.

The moot court program; in-class study.

Courses taken in securities & corporate law field; also, experience and techniques learned & practiced in National Moot Court & Campbell competition and Trial Practice course.

The experience working with statutes.

✓ Case Club experience; Problems and Research course; Administrative process course

No single factor was most meaningful - Overall level of instruction and high calibre of students were very important.

Legal Aid; academic curriculum offered no practical experience or orientation.

✓ My training in Commercial Law & Contracts etc.

The ability to recognize real and potential problems; a recognition that there may be more than one solution to a problem.

Legal writing courses and emphasis.

A good workable understanding of the administrative process in the Federal Government. I am basically a lawyer in the sense of "practical political scientist" and hence it is the understanding of governmental relationships I possess which is important.

Specifically - a course in land finance (security). Generally - ability to analyze problems in terms of legal research tools and use those tools to "find the law".

Interaction among students regarding courses & issues.

1. Rigours of first year courses. 2. Writing & editing experience from Law Review

Association with quality students & faculty.

Inspired teaching, of which there was relatively little.

Legal writing.

✓ The ability to THINK like a lawyer--the logical, problem-solving approach which transcends any one course.

The fact that I had to work so hard on all of my courses makes it easier to apply myself for the total preparation so necessary in preparation & trial of law suits.

I feel that the Case Club program, and related legal writing & research course work, as well as the courses in Civil Procedure & Evidence (though grade-wise my performance was below my hopes & expectations, presently.

The general method of education which emphasizes analytical ability & develops confidence in dealing with complex problems. I find that I recall little of the actual course content of most subjects.

Specific material covered which is still subject to recall. I feel I had a good overview and learned where to look for most answers.

General training in the discipline of law.

✓ The outstanding courses in corporations, business & commercial law, and corporate taxation.

✓ 2nd year course - Problems in Research; Evidence

1. The "name" of the school has opened doors. 2. Preparation for working in a "quality" legal atmosphere.

General high level of competition - keeps you aware & disciplined.

Working as a research associate.

✓ Corporation Law, Taxation, Real Property.

While the substantive content of specific courses is helpful to me- e.g. Const. Law, Creditors' Rights, Property--I believe the general ability to analyze problems & identify issues which I derived from all courses is the most helpful to me now.

Training in problem analysis.

Ability to identify & resolve legal issues & sub-issues as contained in problems (cases) of clients.