

University of Michigan Law School  
**University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository**

---

Law School Alumni Survey Class Reports

University of Michigan Law School Alumni Survey  
Project

---

# Class of 1971 Five Year Report Alumni Comments, Part 2

University of Michigan Law School

Follow this and additional works at: [http://repository.law.umich.edu/alumni\\_survey\\_reports](http://repository.law.umich.edu/alumni_survey_reports)

 Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

University of Michigan Law School, "Class of 1971 Five Year Report Alumni Comments, Part 2" (1977).

This Response or Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Michigan Law School Alumni Survey Project at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Law School Alumni Survey Class Reports by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [mlaw.repository@umich.edu](mailto:mlaw.repository@umich.edu).

VII. B. What of your law school training is contributing more meaningfully to your present job ability?

Ability to think & analyze.

-----  
If any specific aspect is identifiable, it would be Journal of Law Reform because of writing experience.

-----  
Primarily - the exposure I had to extremely high quality professors & students, which tended to set my standards for legal work product.

-----  
Business courses.

-----  
Learning to think!

-----  
Generally good analytical training at Michigan.

-----  
Good problem solving capability.

-----  
Law Review - writing & editing; Bluebook type examinations - learning to think and write under pressure.

-----  
Part time employment in law offices during law school.

-----  
Ability to think, read & write.

-----  
Aside from solid law school training, the simple association with both high quality and interesting teachers as well as a cross section of highly intelligent fellow students.

-----  
Courses in Commercial Transactions and "the Lawyer as a Negotiator"

-----  
The overall emphasis on the systematic analysis of a problem or set of facts and the development of ability to apply critical reasoning to possible solutions or approaches.

-----  
Courses: Estate area, taxation, procedure & evidence.

-----  
General: Broad over-view of areas necessary for a general practice.

-----  
Law School gave me the ability to analyze problems with more logic.

-----  
Traditional "Basics" (Contracts, Property & Torts), Debtors & Creditors Rights and Restitution.

-----  
Research, legal thought process and advocacy training.

-----  
Analytical approach to problems.

-----  
Training in critical and analytical thinking.

-----  
Most concisely the analytic approach to problem resolution.

-----  
Although I am not involved in litigation or civil procedure, the most meaningful contribution was the individual attention to writing that I obtained working for Arthur R. Miller as a research assistant.

VII. B. (2)

Emphasis on thinking, writing & speaking in organized, logical & simple manner.

Taxation courses from Profs Wright & Kahn.

The commercial courses with emphasis on UCC & UCCC & Bankruptcy & emphasis on a statutory approach to problem recognition & solution.

Legal analysis - as applied to writing briefs & arguing cases.

Research skills.

I have found all of the excellent courses I had to be of more value than I ever expected due in large part to outstanding professors at Michigan.

Research done during law school.

Knowledge of substance of law in various areas; legal, analytical method.

Constitutional Law & Evidence.

Precise thought processes necessary in all courses. Real property course. Legislation.

Criminal Law, Real Property, Procedure & Evidence, Taxation.

Training in thought process and response ability - confidence in thinking on your feet.

Learning how to think analytically.

Basic commercial law courses.

Specialized course work, eg. Labor Relations Law.

The greatest infusion of knowledge came in the freshman year - these introductory classes still seem to have left the greatest impression.

Constitutional Law, Legal Aid (clinical), Criminal Law, Evidence, Writing & Research.

Courses in basic areas with particular value derived from procedure & evidence

Organizational and analytical skills coupled with the ability to write.

Taking a balanced curriculum seems to be the most meaningful aspect of law school for me. I may not know the answers in all legal areas, but I have a better feeling for what the problems are.

VII. B. (3)

In law school (it seems to me), I learned a disciplined, analytical approach to problem-solving - i.e., what are the key issues? This has been most helpful in practice.

-----  
Torts & Trial Practice.

-----  
The quality of the faculty and the knowledge they imparted; the availability of an excellent library as a key research tool.

-----  
The development of a "feel" for the right approach to a problem is crucial and starts in law school - also the ability to think critically and ask the right questions. This is obviously the result of the law school process generally and not of any one course. Research and writing courses probably contributed most to job-related skills, at least in the early years of practice, than lecture courses.

-----  
Oral & writing advocacy programs.

-----  
Legal writing (2nd year requirement); 1st year courses (except torts & property law); clinical internship at Center for Law & Social Policy.

-----  
Excellent instruction in remedies and procedure.

-----  
Commercial Law and Taxation.

-----  
Case analysis and labor law.

-----  
Development of self-discipline & concentration, rather than specific course content.

-----  
Writing & editorial skills developed ~~xx~~ on Law Review as member & editor.

-----  
An understanding that legal concepts not always cast in stone, black & white, but subject to interpretation - breathing, dynamic.  
Course offerings satisfactory except perhaps more emphasis in certain parts of taxation, eg, partnerships, employee benefits.

-----  
Rather than specific course content, I point to training in legal reasoning gained from such professors as L. Hart Wright, Dean St. Antoine, Robert Harris & Paul Kauper.

-----  
Law Review, writing, experience.

-----  
My commercial & corporate law courses (eg. contracts, corporations, bus. organizations, securities reg, bus. planning, Tax I & II).

-----  
Campbell competition.

-----  
The U-M's general climate of rigorous intellectual inquiry set the pattern for my trial practice.

-----  
Wills and Trust Law Course, Legal writing but I believe that my law school course work was deficient in this area.

-----

VII. B. (4)

Sharpening rhetorical and abstract thinking ability through informal, out-of-class contact with other law students.

-----  
Nothing specific.

-----  
A rigorous & disciplined approach to analysis & logic in many courses (as contrasted to a psychological or sociological approach).

-----  
I have found the broad commercial background essential. I've found that trial practice and other methods are easily acquired in actual practice.

-----  
Hard to answer - probably the general discipline of law school studies.

-----  
The basic first year courses and the general training in legal analysis that law school requires.

-----  
The writing and advocacy courses taken during my second & third year.

-----  
Legal writing course, evidence & generally the Socratic thought process inculcated.

-----  
Legal training in general, no specific course was outstanding by way of its contribution to my job ability.

-----  
Legal writing & research training & strong-broad-basic background of courses.

-----  
Criminal Law & Procedure, Family Law.

-----  
Those courses which stressed analysis of the premises, the assumptions, underlying legal rules - as distinguished from those which stressed ingestion of black-letter law.

-----  
My volunteer work at Legal Aid. There were no clinical courses when I was in law school.

-----  
Course work, and writing & editing for law journal.

-----  
Writing experience while working as a research assistant.

-----  
Commercial Transactions (White); Creditor's Rights (Kennedy); Security (Estep)

-----  
Learning how to vigorously examine legal issues.

-----  
Training in writing and analytical skills involved in law review work.

-----  
Basic application of issue analysis cannot be over emphasized. Subsequent courses in administrative law, labor law and the seminar "The Lawyer as a Negotiator" were very helpful.

-----  
The training which forces one to think through a problem to the end before formulating an answer.

VII. B. (5)

Emphasis on thinking logically and on reasoning through problems; related training in organizing thoughts concerning particular problems.

-----

- (1) Professional responsibility (2) Clear, concise expression (oral and written)  
(3) Legal research.

-----

Basic corporations course; sec. reg. course; business planning seminar (Siege)

-----

The patterns of thought and analysis which I developed in law school have been very helpful.

-----

Training to think analytically.

-----

Consistent emphasis on analysis.

-----

Courses which addressed the broader, more abstract issues making me think outside of practical constraints - i.e. Federal courts, conflicts. Also my training in writing and analysis as a research assistant. That was where I learned how to write.

-----

Commercial transactions (Prof. White); Real Property (Julin); Contracts (Harris); Civil Procedure (Hawkins).

-----

My field of interest changed after law school - away from many of the courses I had taken in law school.

-----

Competition among peers.

-----

First year analytic skills; stimulation of international law seminars; Strongly believe law school should be no longer than 2 yrs.

-----

Professional discipline and analytical thinking.

-----

No single course, since I am engaged in a general trial practice principally. I feel that the greatest value from law school was the development of techniques for research and analysis of legal problems.

-----

Trusts & Estates, Taxation.

-----

Civil Procedure, Administrative Law, Constitutional Law.

-----

I feel that all substantive law training has helped me tremendously, but I also feel that more practical (**how** to do it) training would have been very helpful.

-----

Training in research and research methods (of which there was not enough)

-----

Criminal Law; Civil Procedure; Evidence.

-----

Generally, seminars which require detailed analysis of unusual problems, & courses relating to civil procedure and constitutional law.

-----

Tax courses & seminars.

-----

VII. B. (6)

Learning to organize my time efficiently & effectively.

-----  
The ability that was developed to make a critical, analytic examination of all subjects. The particular courses have been of little specific value.

-----  
1. Over-all training which instilled thoroughness. 2. Basic legal concepts.

-----  
Legal research - analysis; administrative law.

-----  
Commercial transactions and bankruptcy - creditor's rights.

-----  
1. Legal research, 2. moot court, 3. courses in criminal law and procedure, torts, medicolegal problems, constitutional law, workmen's compensation.

-----  
The emphasis on development of analytical abilities in such courses as criminal law (Israel) and labor law (St. Antoine).

-----  
High caliber competition.

-----  
The quality of the environment at Michigan left the impression on me of the value of critical thinking.

-----  
Both in private practice (3 years) and as staff counsel to a trade association, virtually none of my law school training is contributing to my present job ability.

-----  
1) Experience on the Michigan Law Review, both junior year and, particularly, as Editor-in-Chief senior year. 2) Intellectual interplay with the law school faculty.

-----  
The most important tool which law school training can provide is thorough and disciplined analytical habit, with the same kind of preparation following a close second.

-----  
As a general proposition, the ability to isolate & focus on a particular problem ("issue spotting"), plus the occasional opportunity to find the answer, is of paramount importance. In addition, the ability to put together a powerful response in support of my client's position, be it in a brief or letter, is essential. The problem is that I can't isolate any one area of school that gives this ability.

-----  
Versatility developed by studying various different kinds of legal courses-- also, the emphasis in law school upon refining my already able analytical ability which in turn assists me as a problem solver.

-----  
Writing experience and fundamental course work.

-----  
Courses on evidence and civil procedure.

-----  
The ability to better organize & analyze.

-----  
Taxation, Estate Planning, Corporations.

VII. B. (7)

I feel that my work in the case club program, including junior clerk and senior judge positions, and on the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform, have contributed, as much as anything else, to my present job ability.

-----  
First-year courses providing a basic outline of concepts and principles: seminars that dealt with nitty-gritty issues in relatively narrow areas of the law, and Legal Aid experiences.

-----  
After graduation, I thought more practical courses were necessary. Now I am convinced that the training received in logically analyzing a problem has been most meaningful.

-----  
Legal research.

-----  
Basic courses, legal "method" training, law review.

-----  
Contracts course.

- 1. An analytical approach to problem solving. 2. Improved research ability  
3. Improved speaking ability.

-----  
Exposure to talented professors who taught me to analyze legal problems in a logical fashion.

-----  
Generally everything in the areas of crim law, crim procedure, evidence, const. law, and trial practice.

-----  
Having been taught to perceive the proper question(s) to be resolved in any given situation.

-----  
Research & writing.

-----  
Writing experience, primarily through Journal of Law Reform.

-----  
Probably Case Club participation; that type of program should continue beyond first year.

-----  
Development of analytical thought process; competitive atmosphere.

-----  
Methods of approaching & resolving issues, not subject matter per se.

-----  
The fact that I had a very broad legal education with no particular concentration. I find to be particularly helpful since there are few ~~xxxx~~ areas with which I am not at least minimally acquainted. Intensive study in the area I practice i have developed on my own.

-----  
The school's traditional dedication to excellence in legal research skills and prof. Blasi's insistence on attention to factual details in litigation.

-----  
The discipline required to absorb the mass of material required in school.

VII. B. (8)

Analytical training.

-----

The ability to think logically.

-----

Case club, seminar courses emphasizing legal writing and analysis.

-----

The small group seminar, & several excellent opportunities I had to work individually for credit with gifted members of the faculty.

-----

Overall grasp.

-----

General training in precise, logical way to think and organize.

-----

Primarily the ability to think analytically and being able to do legal research well. Diversity in courses elected was important.

-----

The process of thought learned in law school and the "language" learned.

-----

Most of skills required in present job were learned outside of law school.

-----

Training in thorough research and in good legal writing and analysis.

-----

Ability to analyze carefully statutes, cases, the constitution.

-----

Ability to analyze.

-----

Although I don't now work in the area, I think the course of commercial transactions was most beneficial because of Prof. White's ability to integrate various areas of law together and to show me how a lawyer has to think about a problem on many levels. Also useful were my courses in evidence & business planning.

-----

To assume as little as possible -- tip of the hat to Messrs. Pooley, Vining & L. Hart Wright.

-----

The fact that the courses I took covered a broad range of areas of legal practice which has assisted me in dealing with a wide variety of problems.

-----

Basic mandatory courses.

-----

Detailed research and analytical skills.

-----

Comment: Stress practical applications more; use of actual legal documents and forms (land financing) would help.

-----

The thought & reasoning processes taught in law school.

-----

Commercial law courses including Taxation I & II, Creditors rights, Corporation, Commercial Transactions.

-----

Ability to think problems through and find solutions is most important now-- thus coursework which required hard analytical approach to law & facts contributed most meaningfully. Substance of what was being analyzed is not that important. -----

VII. B. (9)

Working on Journal of Law Reform.

-----  
Commercial law courses including ~~xxx~~ taxation, UCC, creditors' rights.  
----- esp.

The courses, civil pro, contracts.

-----  
Research Methods, Legal Writing, Taxation and Commercial Law Courses,  
Evidence, Professional Responsibility (2-semester course), direct contacts  
with clients in Legal Aid & Juvenile Court work.

-----  
Contracts, Commercial Transactions, Business Planning.

-----  
Two things - (1) Learning the material in the areas I spend time - property,  
UCC, contracts and (2) being exposed to teacher/lawyers like Hart Wright &  
Frank Kennedy who can teach the "whys" as well as the "whats".

-----  
Ability & training to spot issues, write clearly & concisely. Best course  
in terms of every day use was civil procedure.

-----  
1. Analytical skills. (2) Substantive knowledge.

-----  
Employment in law library; first year survey courses; tax courses.

-----  
Graduation, for enabling me to pass the Bar and enter practice, where I  
have acquired what small smattering of ability that I have.

-----  
Development of analytical skills.

-----  
Analytical approach to recognition and solution of legal and "non-legal"  
problems in business; ability to reach intelligent compromises.

-----  
In general it is the overall training in the art of reasoning and  
supporting a position. This is training which is received in all courses.

-----  
Art Miller's Civil Procedure course; thinking within legal system as  
required in all courses.

-----  
1st yr. Moot Court ~~and~~ oral advocacy and 2nd yr. Problems and Research course

-----  
Exposure to large quantities of legal written materials.

-----  
Courses in general and a number of professors.

-----  
Many areas. Most important are the first-year courses and research &  
writing experience with the Journal.

-----  
Tax law.

-----  
kAnalytical skills.

-----  
Need to be "professional". Push toward Excellence. Civil procedure classes.

VII. B. (10)

Taxation I & II (including Gift & Estate Taxation), Trusts & Estates I & II, Estate Planning Seminar.

-----

Development of analytical thinking.

-----

Legal writing and advocacy, including extra-curricular case club & Prosectus (Journal of Law Reform); also Contracts & Commercial Law.

-----

Say what? Very little - learned by "seat of pants"

-----

Corporations courses and drafting skills developed in 1st year contracts course (small section) - Prof. Gray.

-----

Taxation & Corporations (by Stanley Seigel) but not Securities (by R. Knaus).

-----

Commercial law courses.

-----

General orientation to the academic (as opposed to the practical) aspects of professional conduct.

-----

Legal Aid clinic; Case Club.

-----

Development of analytical skills.

-----

Coursework in corporations and labor law.

-----

Hard to say if it is the process rather than the specifics that seem important now. In other words, the professors were right.

-----

No course in particular for my present position; however I believe constitutional law to be the most important courses for the development of any lawyer. C. Actual job experience, which is why I feel clinical law should be emphasized more than it was during my law school experience.

-----

The daily pressures that are felt in law school should be retained. Similar pressure is often felt in private practice and the experience helped.

-----

Tax courses.

-----

Law Review.

-----

The general course work and study.

-----

I don't believe it is possible to isolate any one aspect as more important than any other. Generally, I would stress the importance of being expected to meet rigorous standards.

-----

1. Experience reading federal statutes and regulations.
2. Training to isolate issues within a large problem for analysis.

-----

Very little.

-----

VII. B. (11)

1. Value structures of fellow students.
2. Personality & teaching methods of professors.

-----  
Reasoning process - ability to analyze problems and make decisions.

---  
Although the courses I took in Business and Commercial Law probably have the greatest direct impact upon my present job ability, I believe the basic regimen of issue oriented legal analysis which permeates the entire curriculum has been the most meaningful contribution.

-----  
Those courses & programs (such as Case Club & Campbell Competition) which gave me direct problem analysis, research & writing or advocacy experience.

-----  
My area is so specialized that no particular courses have been helpful - rather, a general understanding of administrative law, banking law, economics, and finance (among other fields) was useful.

-----  
Writing course in second year, commercial law, taxation, corporations.

-----  
Basic courses in a wide variety of areas of the law and the socratic teaching format. I do not think that practice courses were or would have been very helpful to my type of practice.

-----  
Corporation law.

-----  
The two experiences during my law school training contributing most meaningfully to my present job ability were (1) Law Review (2) a research assistantship to a professor during my junior year. As to the general curriculum, I am not satisfied that I received a particularly adequate preparation for the practice of law. C. After graduation, I clerked for a judge on a local court of general jurisdiction, an experience I viewed as a continuation of my education. The clerkship greatly improved (1) my appreciation of the legal process and (2) my ability to analyze and solve legal problems.

-----  
"Lawyer as a Negotiator" seminar; Commercial Transactions; Real Property law; Taxation.

-----  
Constitutional law, Evidence, Procedure, Torts.

-----  
The associations and contacts made in law school.

-----  
Research methodology.

-----  
Law Review.

-----  
Civil procedure, Federal practice, Constitutional law.

-----  
Public Sector Unionism seminar.

-----  
The general practice in understanding case law and recognizing legal issues provided in school is invaluable in shaping the reasoning process necessary to law but there should be more opportunity to use same in court room setting.

VII. B. (12)

Ability to issue organize the normally confused and complex fact situations presented by clients.

-----  
General contracts law principles learned in first yr. course.

-----  
Research and analysis.

-----  
Ability to analyze complicated factual situations and reduce them in a way so that the relevant legal issues are defined, i.e., "spot the issues"

-----  
The rigor of it - i.e., the demands made to work intellectually and not be easily satisfied with one's own analysis.

-----  
Real estate and estate planning courses.

-----  
Classroom dialogues with professors and classmates.

-----  
Business courses / tax / briefs research / general analytical training.

-----  
An understanding of legal analysis and the patience to sort through complicated facts and data to a final resolution. Methodology rather than substance.

-----  
Contracts course with Whitmore Grey.

-----  
Basic law courses (e.g. contracts, constitutional law, agency partnership, creditor's rights) have been more valuable than specialty courses.

-----  
Logical approach to factual matters and learning to not jump to conclusions.

-----  
Tax law, corporations, securities.

-----  
All of it.

-----  
Tax courses.

-----  
Research, drafting and editing for the Law Review.

-----  
The ability to think through the printed word.

-----  
The first year training of learning legal process was very effective. However, in courses during the second and third years, not enough relationship to practice, particularly government regulation, was developed.

-----  
Problem analysis approach ~~XXXX~~ utilized by many professors.