

# Class of 1955 Fifteen Year Report Alumni Comments

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 1955 Fifteen Year Report Alumni Comments" (1970).

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).

1955 Respondents Comments

In light of recent activities at the U. of M. I would want to check seriously before I encourage my child to Michigan

I have often wondered about the value and number of professors who work on legislation that effects the practicing lawyer and his client, without really understanding the practical effects of his proposed legislation.

I think your income area D is low for most lawyers in this area.

\*\*\*\*\*

There ought to exist in Law School less advocacy of statist, collectivist and other doctrinaire socialist aims and more objective consideration of the time-tested standards of constitutional and common law as it is set forth in duly enacted statutes and in court decisions. Otherwise, more than lip service ought to be paid by Messrs L.G. Kauper, L.H. Wright and Wm Bishop to the desideratum that we have a government of laws rather than of men.

\*\*\*\*\*

Feel no change warranted as far as curriculum is concerned.

\*\*\*\*\*

I enjoyed law School, but frankly - probably my own fault - it didn't inspire me. I didn't develop a competitive instinct until I began earning a living practicing law. At that point it all fell into place.

\*\*\*\*\*

Law School education is too abstract. I was barely 20 when I entered law school and left feeling totally incompetent. I was first employed by the National Bank of Detroit-and- Trust Department Tax Division and found my education useless both from the Trust and future interests aspect as well as the tax law. I filled out the estate tax form on mental deduction in class but really didn't know it. There should be problems with specific facts or carry an estate all the way through the form. It is essential to use concrete examples rather than abstract meaningless discussions. I understand that case books are a lot better now and there is now some narrative to tie the cases together. I would devote the first two weeks or more to simply lecturing the class on the law so the cases mean something when read. Also more taxes, evidence, trial practice.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just resigned a San Francisco partnership after 13 years there. Got tired of doing work I didn't enjoy very much, for the benefit of money-grubbing corporations and their executives, earning much money and paying it out in huge alimony and child support and taxes as a single man. also, if the firm I was with was any example, the very high salaries now paid to employee-attorneys at all levels puts great pressure on the partners and they must pressure themselves, and very definitely the employee-attornes, to work longer hours, log more hours, bill higher, and life gradually gets more unpleasant. Ultimately, who needs it?

\*\*\*\*\*

The law school should be enlarged to handle 10 to 20 thousand students a year, not for the purpose of practice before courts, but for the administrative post-graduate training it gives to its participants.

\*\*\*\*\*

In answer to XVIII F. Yes if a he and No if a she

\*\*\*\*\*

The law school is becoming too large and there is too many disorders currently at the U. of M.\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

I take an active part in several corporate enterprises and am also a member of a law firm. This questionnaire definitely does not fit my situation!

\*\*\*\*\*

I have answered the last question(XVIII F) in the affirmative because I appreciate the quality of the law school training I received at Michigan and the value of that training in my subsequent professional career. However, I would have serious reservations about sending a child of mine to Michigan under the present administration. The goal of recruiting an increased number of qualified black students is a good one (even though I can't quite understand how a specified quantity is established) and it shouldn't take a "student strike" to accomplish the adoption of this policy. However, under the guise of "parience" or "coolheadedness" the administration has totally abdicated, in my opinion, its responsibility to maintain discipline and order.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am concerned about the apparent reverse discrimination being implemented at U. of M. I thought that Grad College and other cases militated against such façoritism. I'm sure that special earmarking of funds (whether actually identified as such or not) for benefit of white students would be struck down. I am equally concerned ~~wieh-t~~ with the possible "high schoolization" of the university through lowered standards to satisfy a ~~e~~deserving minority. I think that the evening out should be done at the community and junior college levels.

\*\*\*\*\*

In regard to III - I attended under the Army's active duty schooling program and received the pay and allowances for my rank, Lt. and Capt.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am most satisfied with both the content and quality of the education which I received at the Law School. With a few notable exceptions, the teaching ability of my professors was high. In recent years, interviews at the Law School have impressed me as to the high caliber of most of the student body. I believe that the Law School should consult fully with its alumni with respect to its goals and operation. Alumni experience, as well as student desires, should be valuable in resolving questions as to course content, admission policies and methods of grading.

\*\*\*\*\*

XVIII F- I certainly woyld have no objection to any of my children studying law as I have found it both interesting and personally rewarding. I also feel that the U. of M. Law School deserves its excellent reputation and any person interested in pursuing a career in law would be fortunate if they could atted. However, with respect to my children I am more concerned that theri choice of profession or occupation be compativle with their interests and capabilities than whether they emulate my choices.

The Michigan Law School as a whole did more for me personally in shaping my professional attitudes than anything else other than deep desire to practice law. I am not a pennant waver, but am willing at any time to be of service to the law school. I had to "talk my way" into the law school as a transfer student, perhaps this explains my feelings about staying and graduating. I think I am probably an exception to the general rule as to student success due to a low admissions test score, but desire goes a long way".

\*\*\*\*\*

Question XIX - Perhaps fully vested employer contributions to profit sharing and even pension funds should be included to make comparisons between incomes meaningful.

\*\*\*\*\*

I feel that my sequence of training and variations of background were most important to any success I may have realized. My undergraduate education at a small school followed by two years of experience as a Marine Corps officer gave me an advantage when I entered the U. of M. I particularly feel that my service experiences prior to law school helped me adjust to the rigor of law school. I believe that many of my law courses were irrelevant, but my major regret lies with my choice of courses in undergraduate school. It was there that I should have broadened my range in writing, literature, the classics and the arts. Instead I studied what I was told I would need in law school, but my advice was wrong. Now I find it difficult to go back (lack of time) to get all that I wish I had taken.

\*\*\*\*\*

My principal work is in commercial litigation. For that and other reasons I am not sure that the following comments are going to be typical or representative. I think that less "history" of procedure should be taught than during my years at law school. I believe that enough time was allotted to civil procedure, but it could have been better spent on the five points of discovery, particularly depositions. I believe that there was too much emphasis on case method and classroom interrogation, more lectures and working materials would have been in order. Much more emphasis should have been given to drafting contracts and writing generally. I was very pleased that class clubs and work in the law library gave me some exposure to the tools of legal research. In my day, this "extra curricular" work was the only formal teaching in this regard other than a few days during Freshman orientation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Concerning XV D - This part could have also been answered with a "yes". My career objective changed. At the time of graduation my choice was proper or sound as of that time - subsequently I changed my objective.

\*\*\*\*\*

Accounting should be required either before entry or during law school. I found the Law School most deficient as advisors. Little or no attempt was made to inform the students about or direct them into areas of law outside of the traditional law firm or government work. By the time your graduates become aware of such areas it is often too late to change his career. I am sorry it took so long for the Law School to come into the 20th Century. It should have been a leader in social change not a follower. If the Law School cannot be an advocate in this area what school in the University can be?

\*\*\*\*\*

Comments, 1955, continued

In regard to XVIII F a year or two ago, the answer would have been an unqualified yes. From what I read about my dear U. of M. these days, I'm not sure. I suppose my answer is a qualified yes premised on the real possibility that what I read isn't so or lack of information. I'm afraid I'm "establishment" and I just can't buy what's going on in our campus revolutions.

\*\*\*\*\*

This questionnaire does not readily apply to me, since I have wandered quite far afield. I maintain residence in Michigan and I have an apartment in NYC. After a year of law practice I served in the Army (1956-58) and went directly to New York to pursue a musical career.

\*\*\*\*\*

I think being able to write like a lawyer is necessary in any aspect of the profession. Estate planning could also be used by every lawyer. After that one course is enough in each field for exposure with extra courses in the area the lawyer intends for specialization.

I went to Michigan Law School because it was supposedly the best in the midwest. If anything changes that status I wouldn't want my children to go to it.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am grateful to the Law School and the faculty for the education I received and the opportunities it has afforded me.

\*\*\*\*\*

In answer to XVIII F -- Depends on interests of the child & abilities.

\*\*\*\*\*

XVIII F Depending on whether he or she wants to study law and at the U. of M.

I am dubious as to the value of the questions asked. I would have preferred a questionnaire less devoted to a recital of "vital statistics" and more aimed at philosophical considerations, such as the value of a law school education in terms of contemporary conditions, fulfillment of social and personal needs, in a rapidly changing society, and the place of law in the contemporary scene. (i.e., Ralph Nader approach, or see recent questionnaires prepared by Psychology Today.)

\*\*\*\*\*

My answers herein are somewhat misleading in that I have only recently resigned from my law firm in which I was partner engaged in trial work almost exclusively in my home town. I have accepted a position with the Dickinson School of Law faculty commencing Sept. 1 and have answered therefore from this latter base. From any view however, I am very satisfied with the Michigan preparation received.

\*\*\*\*\*

I like the UM Law School and believe it to be the finest in the country - at least it was in the '50's. I am not so sure that I would like to have my child practice law - to do a good job (at least in the absence of a narrow specialty) requires such a substantial amount of time that one's family does get shorted. Fortunately, I have been blessed with a wife who wants me to be a good lawyer - but am not sure my child agrees.

One comment about the school - I respectfully submit that the school should learn from the recent record of its graduates on the California Bar Exam. I find that a great many of the recent graduates from substantial

law scgools lack a good deal of basic legal knowledge and the professional approach, including law review members (most of my contscts have been law review students). They can argue lots of sociology and political theory, but it's quite difficult to plan estates, advise businessmen, and win most lawsuits in real life with sociology. I assume that the object of law school is to develop lawyers who can practice law.

\*\*\*\*\*

As a graduate who practised for several years, then entered government service (in fhe foreign field), I have noted that this is not uncommon among my legal colleaguea. Consequently, I would suggest that a few broader courses, on such topics as the potential role of the lawyer as a change agent, social problems of the day, and adopting the legal approach to social, civic and economic analyses, could help increase potential areas of interest for Michigan law graduates.

\*\*\*\*\*