Class of 1975 Five Year Report Alumni Comments

University of Michigan Law School

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XI. 1. What stands out in your memory as your most significant accomplishment in Law School?

Graduation with honors from U-M.

Particular courses in which my grades were higher than the balance of my grades.

Law Review and my overall academic standing.

Law Review

Staying happily married & combining work with relatively high level of accomplishment in school.

Surviving it.

Having one semester above a 3.5 gpa.

My work on the Journal of Law Reform; participation in Sandalow's Federal Courts class; quality of my work in terms of final correlation between reason for school's approach and fuller understanding.

Sustaining a broad range of outside interests so that law school strengthened rather than narrowed my intellectual outlook.

Quarterfinalist in Campbell Competition; N.B.D. award in Estate Planning.

Receiving an "a" from Professor Palmer in Restitution.

Making the mistaken leap of faith which persuaded me to continue in it.

Winning Campbell Competition.

I do not recall any particularly significant accomplishments in law school.

Hard to say.

Final paper for Sociology and the Law Seminar.

Having come from rural Florida, beginning to understand the scope of national problems, how they are resolved & who resolves them.

Nothing.

Telling Joe Sax in an administrative law class that he was dead wrong in his interpretation of Arnett v. Kennedy and being right.

None.

Beating the law review people at Prof. Carrington's civil procedure game; getting through.

Winner - Campbell competition.

Getting in after flunking out as undergrad.

Graduating with honors and other wholly-unexpected academic recognition.

An A+ from Bill Bishop

Graduating cum laude and maintaining a normal home life and satisfying marital relationship.
Most significant accomplishment in Law School--
Getting through while working.
Seminar paper for J.J. White
Graduating, with honors
Editing best student article of the year in Journal of Law Reform.
Graduating.
Graduating.
Graduating
Getting on top of first year courses and doing well in them.
Decent grades; going to Europe after 2nd year
Participation in Professor Conard's seminar on Multinational Enterprise was the most rewarding experience
My performance in Vince Blasi's 1st Amendment Seminar
General & consistent academic achievement (but still can't spell)
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Law Reform, vol. 8
Nothing
Law Review
Obtaining the degree.
Preparing and presenting evidentiary motion in Adrian, Michigan as part of Criminal Appellate Practice class.
None
Making the law review as a "write-your-way-on" student.
Keeping pace with students less than half my age, learning to think like a lawyer.
Clinical Law program.
Graduating
Surviving until graduation
Law Review
Being accepted & graduating
Senior judge--writing & advocacy
Articles editor on Law Review

Winning Trial practice award; participating in Clinical Program trials.

Keeping sane, having fun while still graduating.

Invitation to join Journal of Law Reform; successfully representing clients in Clinical Law program; graduating without becoming too self-enamored.

Most of my significant accomplishments in Law School were of a personal nature, the most important of which were learning the fundamentals of concise & analytical writing.

Graduation

Graduating--this is not meant to be facetious. I was working 30+ hours per week and pursuing my MBA simultaneously, and graduation with a decent GPA was significant.

Return after one year medical absence.

There is no one event of particular significance that distinguishes it above others.

Getting through White's course in commercial transactions.

Resuming law school career after 4 year interruption in US Air Force during Viet Nam war, between 2nd and third years of law school, graduating with good final grades, and passing the bar exam first time around.

Graduating Magna cum Laude.

Graduation.

Moot Court performance; Admin Law Board award.

Publishing article in J. Law Reform.

Writing, albeit not published, an article for the Journal of Law Reform; and, meeting & talking with Justice William O. Douglas.

Successfully completing the first year.

Balancing personal life & Law School.

Passing my courses.

Finishing first in my class in criminal law.

The Order of the Coif.

Nothing really stands out, except large writing & research projects.

Just getting through.

Student government participation and research on Party Politics seminar.

Making the personal adjustment to the rigor of law school.

My "A" in real property course taught by Harrison Dunning.
Graduating Cum Laude

Order of the Coif award.

Appellate brief written for Crim. App. Clinic course.

Declining the invitation to join the Law Review

Graduation.

My level of achievement in law school is a source of disappointment to me. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to attend.

Coif.

Finalist in the Henry Campbell Moot Court competition.

Not losing sight of my aspirations.

Working my way through

Managing to survive through three years with three small children I was raising alone.

Running the Legal Aid program with no support whatsoever from the law school.

I was undistinguished

Articles editor

A challenge to the licensure of "The University Center," a private institution for disturbed youth, brought under the auspices of the Clinical Law Program.

Personal growth, particularly balancing work and play to have good social life and good grades, while others suffered

Balancing numerous activities successfully—school, JLR, case club, job, research assistantship, etc.

Honors in Corporate & Constitutional Law.

Working 3 part time jobs while maintaining my grades

I never capitulated to the pressure to stab my fellow students in the back. I graduated with my soul intact.

Law Review

Nothing in particular

Graduate athlete of the year. Tax prize

I can't say anything in particular stands out.

Enduring till the end.

Getting my degree.

Distinguished performance in Butzel Case Club for oral argument in Writing and Advocacy course.
Was able to complete the rigorous program and the bar exam in 26 1/2 months. I am proud of that.

Law Review; publishing article

Forming & operating a corporation (Sub. S) for two years.

Progress from average performance in Writing & Advocacy to best brief & argument in section.

Surviving some of the most effete & boorish instructors & students it has been my disfortune to observe.

Achieving self-confidence in my legal abilities and believing in my ability to compete on a par with my classmates at mid-2d year.

Assisting in racial integration of undergraduate dorm where I was Resident Director and other counseling activities related to that job.

Graduation cum laude

Winning (with 3 friends) the Law School Bridge Tournament

Graduating with honors (barely) after working about 15-20 hours a week with two babies and having been out of school for several years.

Graduating

The leaving of it.

Doing as well as I did although attending only 35% of all classes during 3 years; not flunking out in 1st year although cutting all classes for 6 1/2 weeks during 2nd semester.

Graduating

Receiving an "A" from Harrison Dunning in Real Property law

The friendships & relationships with people from all parts of the country. Most of these continue to this day.

Obtaining an A from Professor Palmer

Nothing

Nothing really significant

None. I graduated.

Development of legal analysis skills

Joining Law Review

Holding a 20 hour per week job with the State Appellate Defender's Office in Detroit while maintaining acceptable grades and retaining my sanity.

AmJur book award for "Trusts & Estates" class (followed closely by graduating from Law School)
most significant accomplishment in Law School

Jane Mixer Award & Legal Aid work
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Academic performance
-----
Getting through
-----
Diversity of activities.
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The Lord's blessing on my decision to place family responsibilities as # 1 throughout law school.
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Law Review
-----
Learning to work hard on projects I may not be enjoying
-----
Nothing
-----
Successfully challenging U of M policy on in-state residency for tuition purposes.
-----
Honors graduate (magna cum laude)
-----
Doing well in Harry Edward's labor law class or case club experience
-----
None--except for just getting through it!
-----
Working with curriculum committee on the "new" (for 76) first year program which included an elective
-----
Moot Court - Campbell Competition semifinals and book award (A+) in property
-----
Graduation
-----
Graduation
-----
Doing better academically in Law School than I had in either college or high school.
-----
Moot Court brief
-----
Getting into it, successfully balancing the demands of law school, job & home
-----
Graduating with high honors while I was raising my two children from my first marriage as a single parent (I was divorced at the commencement of Law School).
-----
Graduating cum laude.
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Surviving
-----
I participated in a faculty hearing, representing a U of M employee with a race discrimination case against University Hospital. I presented the case & filed a brief. We won.
-----
4.0 grade point average in last semester while working more than 20 hours per week outside school.
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Not becoming a fascist
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Most significant accomplishment in Law School -

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Am. Jur. award in Contracts
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Getting through, while not succumbing to the narrow careerism of some of my contemporaries
---
Getting admitted
---
Part-time employment with Layman Allen
---
Learning the material
---
Getting through it with some vestige of self-confidence.
---
Not becoming too wrapped up in Law School.
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[Admission & Graduation!] No single accomplishment stands out, but if confined to one it would be the brief I prepared and oral argument made in Prof. Blasi's seminar.
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The combination of having just completed a tour of duty overseas, and getting married just prior to law school together with a poor start my freshman year made finishing school a very significant accomplishment.
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Graduation
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Nothing particularly--other than obtaining a record that opened the door to my present position.
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Nothing specific
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Other than surviving, being able to do reasonably well in my classes but still develop a set of good, close friends
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To be flip, surviving with my sanity and sense of humor intact; more seriously, being awarded a LSCRRG fellowship after my second year, and being active in the National Lawyers Guild and Women Law Students
---
Editorial year on Journal of Law Reform
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Supporting efforts to deal with racism and sexism
---
Managing to learn in a destructive, excessively competitive, negative environment.
---
Working full time at a job and still surviving academically and emotionally.
---
My seminar paper. In my other courses I was taught discreet areas of the law in a programed way; in seminar I learned I could teach myself a discreet area of the law.
---
Administrative Editor of Journal of Law Reform, especially in expediting and economizing
---
Managing to achieve a reasonably good legal education while at the same time leading an active social life with my classmates
---
Getting an A in Tax II from Prof. Wright
---
Winning a Best Brief award in Campbell Competition
---
Most significant accomplishment in Law School

Survival for 3 years in that male-dominated atmosphere, with very little emotional support, while raising a child alone.

Work with Writing and Advocacy Program - Sr. Judge

Completing the process

Speaking at a Faculty meeting (on what issue I can't recall) in spite of a protest picket by classmates

Surviving the first semester

Participating in the clinical law program at the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington D.C.

Absorbing so much of the academic content although it was so far divorced from practical application.

Work with Michigan Law Review

A general feeling of satisfaction in graduating cum laude without much effort. Making the friendships I made and still keep. (Tie)

Beat negotiation in Prof. Gray's Contracts class

Finalist in Campbell Moot Court Competition

High grades in certain courses

Recommendation by Prof. Bishop for, and participation in, semester at U.S. Dept. of State

Surviving law school with sense of humor intact

Activities as member of Student Senate and student representative on Lawyers Club rate/resident grievance committee

There weren't many. I suppose my performance in Prof. Sax's courses sticks out, since I respected him & wanted to perform well. "A" in Water Law & "A" in Public Lands seminar

Finishing

Winning a jury trial in the clinical law program

Completion after hiatus

None

Working in a number of jobs--paying and non-paying--to practice the skills I was learning.

Graduate Employees Organization bargaining & strike.

No single accomplishment stands out--just learning the law well.

Graduating

Becoming Editor of the Michigan Law Review
Most significant accomplishment in Law School

Significant accomplishments during law school were unrelated to law school.

Article for Journal of Law Reform or work as professor's research assistant.

Best courses--J. J. White's Commercial law; Doug Kahn's tax courses.

Graduating.

Nothing.

My independent research experiences.

Meeting my spouse, also a law student.

Working as the Managing Editor of the Law Review.

Graduating.

Balancing the family, educational and financial demands over my three years in school.

Serving on Law Review--writing and editing.

Participation in moot court.

Finishing.

Legal Aid

Graduation

Avoiding job offers from corporate law firms; paying off tab at Dominic's

Paper on foreign trademark registration in China--was consulted by US Patent Office and paper on licensing to China--led to seminar participation.

Selected for law review from freshman writing contest.

Graduating with honors.

Nothing.

Katcher Senior Tax Prize

My ability to do well academically while ignoring what I felt to be an overly competitive atmosphere.

Helping to establish the Minority Graduate Fellowship Program at the Law School

Developing analytical skills in the law.
XI.2. What do you think of as your most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School?

Becoming a principal member of the law firm

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Successful involvement in law-making cases or contributions to cases in which I felt particularly influenced court decision

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Becoming a respected litigator in my law firm.

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Having had Rogers & Wells seek me out for my present position.

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Managing to practice the kind of law I want in the place I want to live—without compromising my professional or personal goals.

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Professionally, developing a relatively independent practice within the large law firm environment.

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Obtaining & performing well in present position.

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a) Trial work (successful); b) teaching accomplishments.

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Attaining a level of responsibility/authority in my current job that is 45 years "ahead" of a normal track based upon seniority.

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Awarded Bernadine Orme Smith Fellowship from McCormic Theological Seminary.

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Delivering a lecture on commercial law to the managers of a Fortune 500 company.

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Opening a combined law office and used bookstore—twice.

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Becoming a competent trial attorney.

---

Successfully functioning as private practitioner of labor law.

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Being a successful radio broadcast executive in charge of successful radio stations that serve their communities.

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Providing the spark in the reorganization of our firm partnership.

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Recovering my sense of self after the experience & in the meantime liberalizing the crim. justice system where I was, from the prosecution side—helping to draft battered women legislation/found the first battered women's prosecution program in the country/found the first battered women's prosecution program in the country/found a Task Force on Juvenile Prostitution; teaching at the police academy to further the enlightenment of cops; consumer fraud prosecution.

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Just establishing a practice.

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Educating myself as to what is required to competently try a lawsuit in the state courts.

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Recognition in the firm and in the industry of my specialization as an expert in certain fields of the law.

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Summary judgment memorandum in an antitrust case at the cutting edge of the law.

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Obtaining my present position.

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Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Arguing before U.S. Supreme Court.

Providing increasingly-skilled representation to low-income clients in a legal aid office, when such employment is popularly regarded as merely temporary and preparatory.

Deciding to go on my own (soon)

Becoming a member of the firm and having a comfortable place in the community.

6th circuit Amicus brief for NCBL in DPOA v. Young case & other "progressive" legal support.

On committee to totally revise Main Condominium Act.

I do not classify any one thing in my professional career as being the most significant.

Helping my firm grow from a small to a medium sized firm.

A successful career as a Navy Judge Advocate and graduating 3rd in my class of 25 at the University of Miami School of Law in my LLM degree of Estate Planning.

Becoming a pretty fair trial lawyer, and making some "new law" here and there.

Having 2 great kids, strong family unit.

Becoming a partner in a major business law firm.

Victory in a complex piece of mineral arbitration.

Negotiating--after almost a year of litigation--a $200,000 settlement for the tenants of my building against the owner.

Mastering large-scale document discovery in complex litigation.

My home life intact and successful career.

Gradual improvement in my outlook on life.

Development of trial skills.

None comes to mind

Litigating in association with Covington & Burling

Creation of new law on appeal in Wagner v. Noonan for implied warranty of habitability and second purchasers of homes.

Starting and maintaining my own law practice.

Being offered partnership in my law firm less than 3 years after graduation from law school.

Winning cases.
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Integrating law into my teaching; beginning a legal practice.

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As counsel for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, successfully litigating case resulting in largest award for a claimant in state Civil Rights Commission history.

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Arguing/winning an appeal in the Second Circuit

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Developing into a halfway decent lawyer.

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Establishing my own office

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Attaining partnership in my firm

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Teaching myself the complexities of ERISA in my first few months of practice and thus being able to assume responsibility in a new field soon after beginning practice.

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Have won several precedent setting cases--established new law.

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Teaching first-year law students

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Dealing with excessive caseload & making good progress toward partnership.

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Becoming a partner in law firm of Buesser, Buesser, Snyder & Blane.

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Indian Treaty Fishing Litigation

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Obtaining tenure at Central Michigan University (where I teach law)

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Change of law firm

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There is no one accomplishment of particular significance that distinguishes it from others.

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Finding a good job in a nice location.

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Training and developing good staff at medium size trust department.

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Setting up a "specialized" law firm (taxation) in an area where "general practitioners" are in excess supply.

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Attainment of managerial experience

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Balancing personal life & profession

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Passing the bar exam

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Work on several criminal cases leading to convictions

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Publishing law review article (53 J. Urban L. 589) on Michigan Environmental Protection Act.

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Developing significant expertise in the area of employee benefits in both the private and the public sector and fathering three beautiful daughters--the latter is actually more significant to me than the former.

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Preparation for and second chair in 40+ day trial
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Establishing a good private practice

Legislative work done in Congress.

Gaining confidence in public speaking.

Getting married

Becoming a parent and raising our daughter.

Assuming total case responsibility from inception of case which reached Michigan Supreme Court.

Obtaining and succeeding in my present position.

Appellate brief on case before U.S. Supreme Court

Convincing a jury in rural Georgia not to electrocute an indigent black prisoner charged with murdering a white prison guard.

Surviving sole practice

While I have developed a very interesting and successful practice in employee benefits, my most significant accomplishment has been to maintain and foster strong ties with my wife and children (in spite of the demands of my practice).

Fathering two beautiful little girls and keeping their mother, older sister and them relatively happy to date.

Having a job I enjoy and feel good about.

No one single event stands out; generally, becoming a practitioner in my field with the respect of those I work with and those on the other side.

Developing career path along desired lines (i.e. independent practice in Fla, in secure specialty).

Establishing a career in a competitive environment and being willing to leave secure government employment in order to establish professional autonomy.

Becoming a partner

I am undistinguished

I really am not altogether certain.

Pursuading OSHA to drop 4 "willful" citations, based on first hand factual knowledge and understanding admin. procedures, under adverse political situation.

Becoming a partner-elect at my firm

Participation in major personal injury trial.

I am 3/4 of the way through an MA program in economics, and I am relearning calculus, and finally learning statistics and Fortran, BASIC, SPSS, and TSP.
Most significant accomplishment since Leaving Law School

Winning trials

Nothing in particular

Progress as a lawyer

Development of a modest level of trial and practice skills, having left law school without any.

Nothing especially significant. Just good quality work, consistently.

I believe being named to my current position, with its level of administrative and financial responsibility, for the nation's largest housing finance agency, is the most significant to date.

I have become an Associate Professor at MSU and expect to have an article in the Wayne Law Review this year.

Successful completions of clerkship and technical aviation employment.

Mastering basics of areas of specialization and personal client development.

Obstructing the Antitrust Division's persecution of innocent defendants.

Changing jobs to one where long-term growth is possible, and recognizing when it was to have been done; developing a specialty I like; as for a single event: helping shape the future of telecommunications in FCC Docket 20828.

Subordinating greed to opportunities for pro bono and public interest cases.

Recognition as expert in field of employee benefits (at least in the community in which I practice)

No one case or individual achievement--just the acquisition of trial advocacy skills and confidence in my ability.

Completing L.L.M.

Becoming a valued member of a large firm with an established personal reputation so that I'll make partner early.

Joining the firm I am presently with.

Becoming accepted by my peers as a competent lawyer.

Conducting, with minimal supervision, a major litigation culminating in preparation of extremely long & complex brief.

Varied--professional, personal and public service.

Maintaining a job while having three children.

Being a member of a successful dual career family.

The transition from working as an associate in several small firms to a successful sole practice.

Development of writing ability.
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Making a living practicing law.

Nothing.

Nothing really significant.

Winning trials--helping poor people. Appellate reversals.

Maintaining a high quality level of practice.

Successful completion of nuclear power plant litigation

Accommodating professional demands and my desire for a full family life.

Development as a damn good prosecuting attorney (chief assistant)

Becoming a fairly accomplished trial attorney

Position in community organization.

Survival

Starting & maintaining own practice.

Having a happy marriage and family life. Finding opportunity for service both in the law and outside.

Work done for various investment partnerships.

Developing into a competent practicing attorney

Court of appeals decision in Kissinger v. Manor

Representing parties in environmental pollution litigation

Becoming a partner

A child neglect trial or a 1983 civil rights trial & negotiation.

Combining mine career with that of my wife while still raising a family.

Gaining an extremely broad range of excellent experience.

Participation in trial & appeal of a successful antitrust affirmed in Third Circuit

Being able to handle a variety of cases & being able to manage a law office.

Having shown myself to be a good enough lawyer to be a partner in my present law firm.

Coauthored & coedited a 600 page report on transborden data flows

Judicial clerkship

Combining career with family responsibilities. Having two children.

Become respected by my peers in a new community.
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Joining with four other young lawyers with excellent academic backgrounds to form and develop a sophisticated commercial practice.

Handling a senior attorney's responsibility here at Tosco.

Development of a legal/technical expertise and solid professional relationships.

Generally, improving my skills and self-confidence. There are several cases I am particularly proud of my involvement with.

Injunction against HUD prohibiting construction of discriminatory housing.

Labor, civil rights litigation.

Winning virtually all of my cases, especially cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Opening a private practice of my own.

Establishing a solo practice in a city where I knew almost no one, and doing well at it.

Establishing a successful practice as a sole practitioner.

Becoming partner in firm

Starting my own firm

Becoming able to handle a wide variety of corporate law problems at an acceptable level of expertise.

Development of some expertise in communication law (1st Amend/libel, etc.)

Serving as co-defense counsel in the "Gentleman Bandit--i.e. Father Pogano" criminal case

Building a specialty practice (patents, trademarks & copyrights)

I have had numerous significant experiences in representing indigent criminal defendants

Being able to contribute my efforts at the FBI & to work closely with Judge Webster.

Maintaining an economically viable practice with a large component of "public interest" type cases. Also establishing a Legal Services office in a hostile small Ms. town (I took a year's leave from private practice to do that)

Reporter for Alaska Criminal Code Revision Commission

Taking the step to open my own practice

Establishing own law partnership and surviving financially in a new community during difficult economic times.

Understanding the practical aspects of law, as opposed to the theoretical.
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

I developed a reputation as a good lawyer and a good person among both the "criminal classes" and the judges/prosecutors of Washtenaw County, 1976-1980.

Establishing my own solo practice.

Being "first chair" in three multi-week trials and winning all of them

Developing an expertise in employee benefits law and related areas sufficient for me to establish and maintain my own firm.

Amassing a group of satisfied clients.

Winning a medal of commendation for legal support of U.S. EPA's efforts re. regulation of sulfur oxides and particulate matter air pollution.

Acting as legal advisor to Director of Dept. of Corrections.

Finally finding an area of law practice which is totally absorbing and satisfying professionally and personally.

Coordination of major international acquisitions.

Founding own practice.

Getting a job on an in-house legal staff in the banking industry.

Establishing myself as a fine litigator, and having my name listed by the American Arbitration Association as a qualified labor arbitrator.

Combining legal expertise with personal/counseling/communication skills to provide service to clients.

I consider myself a sophisticated real estate attorney and have been complemented on my abilities by co- and opposing counsel.

Change from practice to teaching.

Negotiation and drafting of large commercial contracts.

Partnership (founding) at age 27.

1. Chairing a committee which raised more than $10,000 for E.R.A.
2. Buying a house (& therefore settling down)

Being admitted as partner in my law firm (35 attys--admitted eff. 7/1/80)

Perhaps becoming a member (shareholder) in my firm, which is an excellent small firm in Seattle; perhaps my performance as a trial lawyer.

Surviving

Winning a case in the N.H. Supreme Court expanding due process rights to the civilly committed mentally ill.

Current position

1. Work on case before State Supreme Court in several cases on "just cause" to discharge tenured teacher; 2. Current projects authoring booklets for students and teachers.
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Being chosen to supervise a number of other attorneys in what I consider to be a male-dominated area of law.

Coalition building around issues.

Revision of Northern Trust Co. will and trust formbook.

Realization that my grades were not to be indicative of my post-Michigan success in practice.

Working as an assistant U.S. Attorney

Continued employment

Private practice with major firm. Appointment by Mayor to present position.

Success in current position, ability to make a meaningful contribution as a lawyer.

No single one stands out.

Participation in briefing a significant affirmative action case to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Nothing.

My trial work since coming with the Commission.

Maintaining a compatible relationship with my spouse.

Working as President Carter's chief advisor on energy & natural resources in the last year of his administration.

Particular cases I have won as Public Defender.

Balancing the family, career and financial demands during my 6 years practicing law.

Serving as first-chair attorney in a federal court jury trial.

Developing a private law practice.

Various publications.

Primary responsibility in freeing a young black man from jail by obtaining outright reversals of four murder convictions (392 NE 2d 278)

Staying active in church

Winning appeals that resulted in published decisions

Helping establish firm's office in Tokyo, and involvement with China's legal and economic development.

Co-authoring several state & local laws.

Working effectively at both my jobs since law school.

Teaching law
Most significant accomplishment since leaving Law School

Forging new private practice with emphasis on business and estate planning for farm families.

Supreme Court clerkship

Handling Citronelle case (499 F. Supp. 871, appl pending)

Development of relationship of trust with governmental client so that I am in a position to practice preventative law.

I find representing abused & neglected children very satisfying. I believe I am making a significant contribution to the community.

Developing the ability to use my skills to meet the needs of clients.
XII. c. If you are now in a different area of practice or different line of work, how does your present situation differ?

I am in the attorney general's office; most of my time is spent in litigation & most of the litigation involves environmental law.

I never dreamed of doing creditors' rights work--with my present firm & position I have is tailor made--would never trade it.

I am working for a corporation rather than a law firm--though doing the kind of work (tax) that I expected.

Substantially the same--litigation. Not international or upper government position.

Different profession--now associate pastor in large church.

Government employee vs. free spirit (small firm practice)

Corporate law, not public interest law (public interest law)

My role is a "bread and butter," "nuts & bolts" practice rather than one of broad social implications (public interest law)

Less of a lawyer/entrepreneur than expected

Less law--more business (international law)

Large firm (small firm practice)

I'll achieve my goal in a few years I believe (judgeship)

Larger firm than anticipated (small firm practice)

Practice in a medium sized business law firm (using legal background in business)

Not enough trial work--mostly pre-trial discovery (litigation)

Corporate & securities practice instead of labor negotiation

In private practice (government service)

Different type of practice, different substance (small firm practice, public interest law, criminal defense work)

Different people, different fees, different place (legal aid)

I aspired to a more idealistic contribution to society than I feel I'm making in corporate litigation practice

Almost exclusively domestic law (international law)

Private practice rather than government service (government service)

No longer practicing (small firm practice)

Sole practitioner--not doing contractual work for large firm as I had anticipated (large firm practice)

Working with legislature and have worked in private practice to get first hand experience to improve my abilities as an educator (education, management)
Dealing more with contracts and business than with people (legal aid)

Totally different; I'm manager of a personal trust division in a bank trust department (international law)

I'm now doing torts (labor law)

Prosecuting criminal cases rather than defending them (legal aid and criminal defense work)

Not specializing in international law (large firm practice)

Only 25% of my caseload is criminal defense work (government service, legal aid, and criminal defense work)

Will and trust lawyer for a large bank (government service)

Working in private firm, but fulfilling general aspirations I had when I entered law school (government service, legal aid, public interest law)

I decided to practice law (prof of political philosophy)

Type of practice

My aspiration since long before law school has been to run successfully for high public office. Law school was part of my preparation. The aspiration remains (government service)

Presently doing research (small firm practice)

Better hours (large firm practice)

Civil tax litigation for Dept. of Justice (criminal defense work)

Doing organizing & training (litigation)
Substantially I am a corporate attorney (politics, as a candidate)

Private practice rather than public interest (public interest law)

I am disgusted with lawyers. I am studying for an MA in economics. I hope to pursue an M.P.H. degree next fall. (government service)

Entered law school expecting small firm, small town practice; left desiring urban business law practice (small firm practice)

I did not expect it to be too difficult to find a position with a small firm. I did not expect it to be so difficult to combine fulltime work with family responsibilities. (small firm practice)

My broad and extensive labor practice was totally unexpected. (small firm practice)

Upon entering law school--goals=estate planning emphasis in 2-3 man firm. Now--a corporate practice in 26-man firm. (small firm practice)

Corporate (large firm practice)

Corporate law dept. member instead of private practitioner (small firm prac)

Some criminal defense work (litigation, public interest law)

I had wanted to become a city attorney. I now am in a business litigation practice (government service)

No longer involved in criminal work--am now chief civil counsel for County of Marquette (government service)

The practice is more specialized and is predominantly commercial (small firm practice)

Teaching law vs. practicing (litigation)

Thought I would do more civil work (legal aid)

I am with a medium sized firm with small to medium sized clients (large firm practice)

I had no idea--I wanted to save the world (and live in Hawaii)

I manage some litigation, but personally handle only agency hearings (e.g., EEOC). (litigation)

Larger firm than I envisioned (small firm practice)

My practice is solely labor law, instead of tax & business as I had planned originally (large firm practice, tax & business law)

Less practice for individuals

Now a general contracts litigator whose cases only occasionally lap over into international arena. (international law)

I never dreamed I would be general counsel of a corporation specializing in real estate (small firm practice, public interest law)
I did not anticipate a specialty in antitrust; expected to do general litigation  
(large firm practice)  
Substantially--now Wash. rep for scientific society  
(practice in very large corporate law dept)  
Litigation  
(corporate law)  
Present situation is private practice, representing primarily American clients with American commercial interests  
(international law)  
Different area of law, although I consider my current work to be in the area of public service  
(public interest law)  
Large firm practice, private interest law  
(small firm practice, public interest law)  
We haven't had our firm open long enough to build up its size  
(large firm practice)  
Not public interest law but somewhat in the public interest  
(public interest law)  
At this stage, I had hoped to shift to the government sector  
(large firm practice, government service, litigation, politics)  
Large firm practice  
(public interest law)  
Corporate in-house counsel  
(large firm practice, litigation)  
After four years as a Public Defender, I have entered a PhD program in criminology and hope to teach  
(criminal defense work)  
As to size of firm, generality of practice, current rewards  
(large firm practice)  
Government service; greater responsibilities, esp. re litigation  
(small firm practice)  
General counsel and hearings advisor for State agency; no courtroom work, which I did in Legal Aid (my first job.  
(Legal Aid)  
I never expected to practice law in a major city  
(government service)  
Employed by a corporation  
(small firm practice)  
I wanted a "Washington practice"--in government when possible, for as much time as possible & with a good Washington firm the rest of the time.  
I am now in a "firm" rather than a "government" phase.  
(government service  
I do no environmental law or legal aid.  
(government service, Legal Aid, public interest law, environmental law)  
Mostly represent large insurance companies in maritime insurance defense work.  
(public interest law)  
Began in legal aid, now public defender  
(Legal Aid, litigation,  
(public interest law, criminal defense work)
VII. B. What of your law school training is contributing most meaningfully to your present job ability?

Courses with practical skills emphasis--e.g. actually planning estates in estate planning; negotiating contracts in collective bargaining & contracts.

Taxation courses, particularly Prof. Wright's tax courses; generally contracts, theoretically presented courses.

There is no one specific facet of my law school training which has contributed most specifically to my law career. Rather, my law school training generally developed my analytical skills which contributes generally to my professional development.

J. J. White's course in Commercial Transactions!

My tax courses and the research and writing experience I gained on Law Review.

Breadth of course offerings further well-rounded legal abilities & frankly testing environment develops ability to think in pressure context which is most useful skill in my particular field.

Research capabilities. Familiarity w/ legal concepts, ramifications of law on day to day operations, integration of legal considerations in developing policy.

Learning legal analysis.

1. Quality of other students & discussions held in Journal office & in class. 2. Commitment to thinking through subject matter areas instead of learning great detail through several courses in each area. 3. Quality of faculty.

Clinical Law, Criminal Appellate Practice & Trial Practice.

1. Training in analytical thinking. 2. Background for counseling (especially in interpreting the legal implications of personal situations. 3. Forum of exchange between religion (Christianity) and the business and professional world.

The aspect of my legal education which I find most useful in my present practice is the analytical skills which permit me to develop solutions to legal problems which I have not previously encountered.

Struggle against irrational authority (intellectual and otherwise).

Breadth of academic course work.

Law Review experience.

Clinical training.

Courses in Personal & Corporate Tax, Business Planning, Estate Planning, labor law, Contracts, Professional Responsibility, Writing and Advocacy.

Analytical thinking.

All courses in criminal law & procedure, constitutional law & evidence, plus the intimidation & pressure is helpful in trial work & U-M's standards are helpful overall.
Commercial law, contracts, bankruptcy.

I learned more outside of formal classroom training (i.e., law related jobs such as appellate defender work, legal research, and writing for professors writing books or outlining courses and in clinical and moot court work) than in the classroom.

Excellent general background knowledge. Legal reasoning. Coping with pressure.

No specific course--process of thinking rather.

Training in skills of legal analysis.

Exposure to intelligent, talented professors & students at U of Mich. Law School.

Specific class: Prof. Harris' Federal Housing Policy seminar--brilliant introduction to the dilemmas of public policy formulation. General training: emphasis on "thinking like a lawyer"--asking questions and probing for theories, approaches, etc.

Legal analysis.

Substantive law training because it makes it possible to spot the issues in a legal problem.

Yes, writing & research.

Legal analysis.

Nothing specific in the way of courses has contributed, but the ability to think "like a lawyer," to analyze problems, and to create or find solutions is a direct result of my legal training.

The analytical process used to identify and hopefully solve legal problems.

This question is difficult. Law school influences my career as a totality. No one aspect stands out.

All about the same; no particular courses or activities.

In my present perception, little except certain core courses in Contracts (Whitmore Gray) and Enterprise Organization (Alfred Conard).

Nothing.

The commercial law courses taken under J. J. White and my experiences at the Center for Law & Social Policy in Washington, DC in 1974.

Training to engage in comprehensive legal analysis.

Antitrust & Admin Law courses. Trial practice course.
Patterns of thinking & problem solving training.

Learning to cope with hopelessly confusing situations in ordered, rational and effective ways.

Classroom discussions.

Seminar on negotiation.

1. Exposure to all types and areas of the law in 1st year of law school.
2. Small class seminars and individual research in 3rd year
3. (Law clerk experience in Ypsilanti)

Clinical Law program.

It strikes me that the general background of academic and intellectual excellence at Michigan has proved more meaningful than any specific "aspect" of law school training.

First year (which I took at another law school, but was substantially the same as the U of M first year program).

Learning legal reasoning & case analysis; learning to spot issues & research problems.

Associations and confrontations with other law students.

Case analysis.

Very little other than basic background to become a lawyer.

Commercial law courses.

Clinical Law; Commercial Law (w/ White); various tax courses.

Contracts & remedies, criminal procedure, torts.

Training in legal analysis.

1. Fundamentals from all first year courses.
2. Writing & Advocacy/Moot Court

"Legal" approach to thinking & analysis, intellectual discipline.

White's Commercial Transactions.

Ability to effectively research law & communicate legal position--case club activities most helpful; core courses--contracts, civil procedure, evidence.

My real property course & my course related to Surety & Secured Transactions.

Civil procedure.

Research, analysis, constitutional law.

Can't identify one particular attribute of the training.
VII.B. (4)

Legal analysis which transcends knowledge in a particular area and permits statutory interpretation, spotting legal issues, understanding judicial decisions and responding intelligently with whatever information is available.

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No one thing in particular.

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Estate planning course.

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The ability to apply the theoretical knowledge to practical legal problems and situations.

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Analytical capabilities.

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Ability to analyze. Sound business & commercial law fundamentals.

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Civil procedure & evidence.

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General training in legal reasoning.

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Practice in legal research, writing, and oral advocacy. Course work in evidence and civil procedure has been invaluable for litigation purposes.

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Research skills.

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Principally the development of the ability to ask the probing questions needed to develop the facts needed to analyze the problem property. (Mental approach & attitude rather than specific course content.)

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Writing experience: Writing & Advocacy; Journal of Law Reform.

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The high quality of instruction and the in-depth course work I received at Michigan more than adequately prepared me to practice law.

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Labor law; Collective bargaining; Commercial Transactions.

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Estate Planning seminar; Tax courses.

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Traditional bread and butter courses.

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Legal writing, both through course work and outside paid work (The Research Group).

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The ability to think & reason as a lawyer--how to approach a legal problem. I credit Prof. Jackson more than any other individual professor. Also, the importance of the Public Policy behind the black letter law.

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Sharpening my analytical skills.

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Courses on procedural aspects of civil litigation.

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Evidence, procedure.

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Analysis.

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Internalizing the legal/analytical process.

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Learning and sharpening research skills; legal writing skills; and general knowledge of law.
VII.B.

Law School taught me to evaluate issues (legal and non-legal) in a logical manner. It also gave me an abiding sense of respect for other parties' points of view.

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Course in Commercial & Consumer transactions; volunteer work at campus legal aid.

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Tax

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Learning how to approach a problem e.g. methodology.

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Legal analysis & reasoning, writing.

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Training in legal research obtained through participations on law review.

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Law Review writing & editing. Insight from particular courses & teachers, Palmer-Restitution, Kahn-Wright tax, Sandalow Fed. Cts., & many others. (Crim Law-Proc. courses (Israel-Regan) also excellent, but I'm on civil side so not much use.)

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Tax.

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The emphasis placed in law school on developing analytical abilities as opposed to the mere learning of 'black letter' law.

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1. My trial practice course was invaluable.
2. The emphasis on identifying issues and problems as the crucial first step to finding solutions.

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Clinical Law--i.e., the organized, structured teaching of courtroom skills in a real-life, practice setting.

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Tax courses.

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Courses in what is now my specialty.

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The thoroughness and exacting standards demanded by the Law School.

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The ability to analyze situations and interpret statute and case law with precision.

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Nothing that is course specific; rather, the ability to look at a problem & have the discipline to ascertain the issues.

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Taxation, Contracts.

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First year basic courses (a base on which other knowledge is built & specific problems are put in an overall perspective) and case club (research and prepare answer to question, individually).

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Trial practice course (Stein)

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There is no specific course. Perhaps the requirement of a more disciplined approach to issues.

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Statutory interpretation is a key technical skill.
VII.B. (6)

Legal concepts & intellectual creativity, as opposed to "black letter law.

Training in analysis of cases and materials. Training in legal brief-writing (Blasi - 1st Am. Seminar & JLR work).

Trial practice, tax courses.

Writing and advocacy course. Great professors such as Francis Allen, Marcus Plant, Richard Effland (visiting) and Jerry Israel.

The contacts provided with other students & the resulting stimulation/challenge.

Tax

The intellectual discipline required to get through.

"Real life" problem solving opportunities to supplement case law (e.g. draft a contract, write a will, critique a negotiation, etc.)

Corporations (including securities), Legal Writing and Advocacy, Real Property and Contracts, Constitutional Law.

I learned a lot while doing legal research, and that is helping me today,

Corporate & tax training.

Enterprise Organization class & Trial Practice.

Being trained to make arguments in cases of first impression.

Trial Practice, Evidence, & what little antitrust law I gleaned from Business Organizations.

The emphasis placed upon legal analysis, particularly the exercises involving the close examination of all issues. As a result, its been easier to muster arguments which have prevailed in seemingly hopeless cases.

1. Development of analytical skills
2. J. J. White's Commercial Transactions course
3. Francis Allen's ethical and intellectual guidance.

First year basics of torts & civil procedure

Clinical law and the Lawyer as a Negotiator.

Various criminal law classes--all were excellent.

1. Exposure to Professors L. Hart Wright and Douglas Kahn
2. Center for Law and Social Policy

Ability to properly analyze a problem and look beyond obvious solutions linked with solic academic exposure to many areas of the law.
VII.B. (7)

Overall I learned to become a more disciplined thinker and I developed my ability to organize complex and disparate material.

All of my training has been most helpful—but my experience in the Legal clinic, the various seminars I had, & my independent research project probably had the most meaningful impact on my present job ability.

Labor Law, Constitutional Law and Clinical Law.

I can think of no specific aspect of law school which contributes directly but I firmly believe my total law school education contributes much beyond legal training, i.e. discipline, problem analysis, communication (oral & written) skill, etc.

a. Legal Writing—primarily from a First Amendment seminar w/ Prof. Blasi
c. Environmental Law—primarily courses with Prof. Sax.

The skills of analysis & attention to detail of the faculty are what I find a useful model.

Legal thought process.

Courses that emphasized legal reasoning and precise attention to detail—Browder's Trust & Estate course is a prime example.

Contracts, Taxation

Other than the writing and advocacy program, law school training has contributed very little to job skills.

The self-discipline

Criminal procedure courses.

Courses in code-related law, i.e., tax, commercial transactions.

The general training to understand the law.

The training I received that enabled me to analyze. (Law School taught me how to think)

The ability to read critically and analytically.

Abstract thinking and general understanding of legal concepts, history, etc. Law is easy. But Michigan taught me more than what's in Gilberts. The intellectual side is important once you get out—it separates you.

Research and writing skills developed in part-time jobs; acclimatization to all-consuming competitive attitudes.

J. J. White's UCC course; Civil Procedure; Evidence.

1. "Practical" courses such as Commercial Transactions (White) and Enterprise Organization (Conard) and
2. the more rigorous "theoretical" courses, such as "Federal Courts and the Federal System" (Sandolow)
VII.B. (8)

The evidence class which I took (Prof. John Reed) has been the most helpful class, by far. More generally, the entire educational process, with its attendant teaching of legal reasoning & discipline--The "intellectual rigors" of law school.

Legal Writing & Research; Practical experience thru Legal Aid Society
Legal analysis; research & writing.
General exposure to business law
Analytical skills
Law Review writing & editing, & courses in Federal Courts & Evidence
Learning to appreciate and strive for excellence.
General lawyering skills obtained through a broad exposure to areas of the law.
Course work in estate planning and tax
First-year Contracts course and Commercial Transactions--also Comparative Law courses.
Civil Procedure; Evidence
Recognition of the limitations of academic training in the law when faced with demands of actual practice.
Analytical thinking
Clinical program; practical exercises (writing program; Campbell competition)
Knowledge of the issues to look for and research techniques
Being exposed to the daily challenge of my fellow classmates--bright, ambitious & aggressive (in a positive sense) people who forced me to think quickly & decisively.
I find that I have a superior ability to analyze the essence of a problem and reach solution without getting entangled in trivia. I attribute this to the overall excellence of the faculty and student body of U-M
General orientation to legal thinking & precision, as begun in first year courses & as carried through in advanced level courses.
Trial practice courses. Practical training.
I cannot point to any single aspect of my law school training as being most meaningful, however I believe that the overall training sharpened my analytical abilities and this has helped me tremendously.
VII.B. Writing & advocacy.

Courses in taxation

First year courses, Case Club & clinical law program

Evidence course & course in Civil Procedure

Excellence of Real Property, Commercial Transactions and Taxation courses.

The clinical law program & commercial transactions

Basic courses--first year; personal contacts; practical advice re contract drafting, business planning, writing.

Contracts, Restitution, Torts

General training in legal research & legal thought. Basic principles of contract, real estate, etc.

My training in legal analysis while in law school continues to contribute to my present job ability, but involvement in Ad. Hoc. Advocates was my single most useful experience in law school.

Learning to tolerate reactionary corporate lawyers

I think the emphasis at Michigan on legal analysis, rather than coverage of specific areas of the law, is most important. With solid analytical skills, new areas of the law can be mastered without great difficulty.

Courses which devoted substantial time to study of codes, such as taxation and UCC

Intellectual rigor of courses

The classic objective of learning to "think like a lawyer"

Skills acquired in two courses: Con Law I: Robert Burt; Commercial Transactions: J.J. White

Wide exposure to corporation law areas (tax, securities, antitrust)

Contracts

Basic legal discipline & legal research

The clinical law experience

Constitutional Law, Blasi; First Amendment seminar

Flexibility in approaching factual & legal problems or issues

Legal research

Professor Kahn's Tax courses--because they combined legal theory & policy issues with a problem-solving approach.

Commercial law courses--UCC; Bankruptcy (Prof. White)
Courses in clinical law and trial practice, the first-year writing and advocacy program, and the over-all high quality of my law school education.

No particular course is contributing in such a manner but rather the general training received and the recognition (which was gained while at Michigan) that an organized, diligent approach to problems is necessary are most important.

Two or three years ago, I would have said clinical law & left it at that. I still feel the clinical part was extremely meaningful and as I have noted above clinical and trial practice, I feel should be an increased component of the curriculum. However, I have come to believe the general high quality overall educ. at UM is also a key contribution to my present job ability.

Research Assistant for Prof. Israel

Analytical training; research skills

The intellectual stimulation at U of M was outstanding (strike that as non-responsive!)

First year course work, clinical experience.

Research and brief-writing skills learned in closely supervised appellate advocacy seminar

Understanding the relationship between statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions.

Clinical law

Tom Green's ability to identify the historical, political, and socio-economic contexts which interact with legal theory.

The three courses I took from Mark Plant (Comm Trans; worker's Comp; medicolegal problems).

Courses: Evidence, trial practice, federal courts, labor law. Other: participation as Senior Judge in Case Club program, editorial position on Journal.

Courses in Taxation II (Kahn), Commercial Law (White), and Contracts (Jackson) made significant contributions. Also significant was writing and research experience gained on Journal of Law Reform.

The analytical expertise of the professors which is still an example to follow and a goal to strive for.

Tax, business planning, Moot Court competition.

I do not think the particular course offerings are that significant so long as some variety is available. Learning to analyze, think through problems, and write clearly are the most important things I learned.

Research and writing training.

Torts, labor law.
VII.B.

Dialogue with faculty & classmates regarding examination & multiple aspects of particular situations (both in class & out).

Training in analytic thinking--no one course, but rather the whole method.

The clinical law experience

Broad range of courses; understanding of courts, legislative process, administrative agencies and their interrelationships; solid academic foundation in law.

Overall training in approach to legal questions, i.e., analytical skills.

Substantive knowledge of legal principals

The Law Review experience of rigorous editing, writing and administrative responsibilities, with its absolute & unwavering insistence on the highest quality work.

First year training in legal analysis.

Training in how to recognize and analyze legal issues.

Training in legal analysis and legal writing

Commercial Transactions; Contracts; Real Property.

Honestly, I feel to some extent I have had to overcome my law school training, rather than benefiting from it. Michigan seemed too large & impersonal, & my self-esteem took a beating--from Kingsfield-type professors. Very little attention was paid to individual needs.

Contracts, plus the legal reasoning/legal analysis process gained from law school in general

Clinical law, trial practice, evidence, criminal law.

Development of analytical approach to problem solving; legal framework for business activities; seminars

First-year mandatory coursework

The evidence course I took. The work I did outside of classroom during law school--research, writing and advocacy for legal aid, a private law firm, and an instructor.

Welfare law, labor law, family law.