



William Taylor Muse Law Library
University of Richmond School of Law

Research Guide : The First Year of Law School

Introduction

The first year of law school is both exciting and frightening. Law school is a unique experience, one unlike anything most first-year law students have ever experienced. This research guide contains a partial list of resources available within the library's collection that attempts to address issues many law students encounter, such as the legal system, study groups, stress reduction, study skills and law school exams. This guide is only a selection of the resources available in the collection. The library's online catalog will assist in locating additional resources on any topic. The majority of library's collection on the first-year experience is located on the second floor in and around the KF 285–287 call numbers. Call numbers for the resources detailed below are provided in brackets following the title of each resource.

Please contact the reference librarians for additional help.

The Law School Experience

John F. Dobbyn, *So You Want to Go To Law School* (1976). [KF273 .D6 1976]

Discusses the differences between college and law school, the shock of first year, and the shock of first semester grades

Kenney F. Hegland, *Introduction to The Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell* (2003). [KF273 .H4 2003]

Tips on legal analysis, study skills, the litigation process and beyond the first year

The Law School Survival Guide (J.D. Jungle eds., 2003). [KF283 .J3 2003]

Advice on financial aid, study habits, and admission to the school of choice

Robert H. Miller, *Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience: By Students, for Students* (2000). [KF283 .M55 2000]

Comprehensive discussion of the law school experience and tips for surviving the three years

Gary A. Munneke, *How to Succeed in Law School* (3d 2001). [KF283 .M86 2001]

Discusses topics such as taking good notes, study habits, exam performance and preparation

Helene and Marshall Shapo, *Law School Without Fear: Strategies for Success* (1996). [KF386 .S44 1996]

Attempt to provide frank answers to questions that many first-year law students face

Women and Minorities and Law School

Linda Hirshman, *A Woman's Guide to Law School* (1999). [KF283 .H57 1999]

Thought-provoking discussion of women's experiences in negotiating the maze of law school

Looking at Law School A Student Guide from the Society of American Law Teachers (Stephen Gillers ed., 1997). [KF283 .L66 1977]

Law school experience with chapters on financing law school and tips for minorities and for women

Linda F. Wightman, *Women in Legal Education: A Comparison of the Law School Performance and Law School Experiences of Women and Men* (1996). [KF 287 .W54 1996]

Presentation and discussion of the results of a 1991 survey of the experiences and differences of women and men in law school

Gita Z. Wilder, *The Road to Law School and Beyond: Examining the Challenges to Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession* (2003). [KF 285 .W56 2003]

Report issued by the Law School Admission Council on minorities in law school

Study Habits and Law School Exams

David H. Barber, *Winning In Law School Stress Reduction* (1983). [KF 287 .B37 1983]

Compilation of materials about problem solving and tips to improve performance in law school and managing the stress associated with the first year of law school

Betty Brody, *Write the "A" Law Exam Answer* (1988). [KF 277 .E92B76 1988]

Discussion on writing a law school exam

Ann M. Burkhart and Robert A. Stein, *How to Study Law and Take Law Exams* (1996). [KF283.B87 1996]

Part of the Nutshell series, this work discusses basic concepts such as what is a hornbook, study groups and law school exams

John C. Dernbach, *A Practical Guide to Writing Law School Essay Exams* (2002). [KF283 .D47 2002]

Discusses the law school exam and how to write one

Carolyn J. Nygren, *Starting off Right in Law School* (1997). [KF273 .N97 1997]

Topics such as the legal process, case law and law school exams addressed in detail

Charles H. Whitebread, *The Eight Secrets of Top Exam Performance in Law School: An Easy-to-Use, Step-By-Step Program for Achieving Great Grades!* (2003). [KF 283 .W48 2003].

Tips on maximizing your performance on the law school exam

The University of Richmond School of Law Exam File

Students may also find the prior exams of professors a valuable resource. The library maintains old exams contributed by professors at their discretion. Please inquire at the Circulation Desk; students with a valid University of Richmond Internet connection may access some exams electronically at <http://lobo.richmond.edu/examfile>.

