

Thriving in Law School and Law Practice

How can law students thrive when they question the messages and methods of legal education and the ethics and demands of the legal profession?

Law School. One key to growth and happiness in law school is the realization that you are not alone in your concerns about the messages and methods of legal education. Some other students feel the same way. Some faculty members share your concerns. Seek out those students and faculty. Law schools are made up of many little communities. Don't let the prevailing culture of your law school define your community. Students at other law schools share your views as well. You can see and hear those students in the video *Teach to the Whole Class: Barriers and Pathways to Learning*, which was produced by the Institute for Law School Teaching from interviews with over 60 students at 6 different law schools. Many law schools own a copy of this video.

Legal Profession. When I became a lawyer, I spent my first couple years waiting for someone to tell me what professional ethics were critical for me and how I could lead a balanced life. Then, as a result of a *pro bono* case I handled with a colleague, I understood that I was going to have to make those decisions for myself. At first that realization was scary – what if I made bad choices? But ultimately it was liberating. Only I could decide what kind of lawyer I would be. Only I could decide the relative importance of family, friends, and work."