

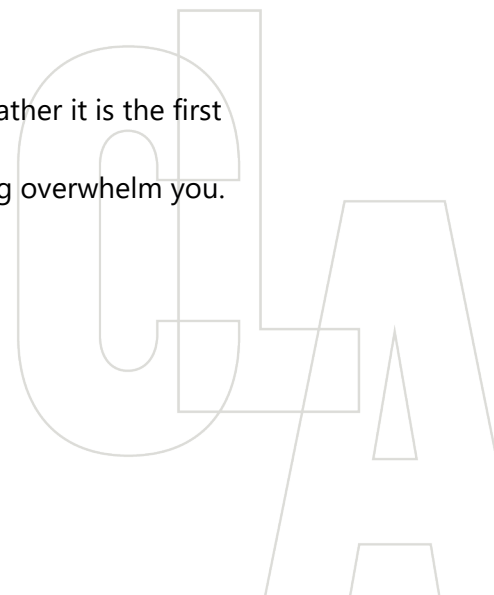
## What I Wish I Knew About 1L/Law School

*Current law students share what they wish they had known about their first year of law school before classes began. We hope this information will be helpful to any community college and four-year college students considering taking the next step toward a legal career: attending law school.*

- Importance of Networking
  - Staying in touch with your current network (Lateral & Upward Networking).
  - Reaching & connecting with attorneys & legal professionals in the field you are interested in or curious about.
  - Creating some database or list of attorneys willing to have coffee or calls.
  - Establishing and fostering long-term relationships with attorneys. **FOLLOW UP** (even if it's just an update).
- Importance of Work-life Balance
  - Taking care of mental health is #1 but the workload is or may be difficult (e.g., it may take you longer to read cases than other peers).
  - Taking breaks and making time for yourself to prevent burnout.
  - Experience (working before law v. starting right away from undergrad).
- First-Generation Law Students/Professionals
  - Taking up space, feeling like you have a voice and a seat at the table.
  - Adjusting to a Socratic method of teaching.
  - Establishing boundaries with friends and family.
- Nuances of the Legal Profession
  - Civil Law (litigation) - What is litigation?
  - Criminal Law (DA v. PD).
  - In-house Legal Counsel.
  - Law Firms (Transactional v. Litigation).
  - Government Agencies (Federal v. state).



- J.D. Advantage (not an attorney but has a J.D.).
  
- Professional Etiquette
  - Table manners & professional attire
  - Law school is a professional environment – establish a professional reputation as the legal community is very close-knit.
  
- 1L Classes
  - Legal Rhetoric: Case holding, common Latin terms in the law; inter alia, quid proquo, certiorari, de novo, ex parte, summaries, etc....).
  - Case Law:
    - It is based on Appellate or Supreme court decisions.
    - How to read, Affirmed or Reversed or Certiorari.
  
- Writing
  - Take advantage of the writing center as an undergrad!
  - IRAC (maybe not necessarily knowing how to IRAC but knowing the definition: Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion). This is the standard for legal writing.
  
- Financing
  - Scholarship opportunities and resources from bar associations and firms that support students of color entering the legal field.
    - Starting a database of these bar associations and firms that have scholarship opportunities.
  - Student loans and private funding for DACA students
  
- Tips to Succeed in Law School (Preparing for Law Skills)
  - Law school is not the last three years of your education, rather it is the first three years of your career!
  - Stay in your lane and do not let what other folks are doing overwhelm you.



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*This material was prepared by Sam Elias (UC Hastings '22) & Nicole Yuvienco (SCU Law '22) as a 2020 project of the California Lawyers Association's Diversity Outreach Advisory Committee. For more information about the California Lawyers Association, our initiatives, or free membership for law students, visit: <https://calawyers.org/>.*

