

FOCUS ON

Next Generation of **LAWYERS**



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DURING THE PAST YEAR, I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF SPEAKING TO LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS AT MOST OF THE LAW SCHOOLS IN THE STATE. I shared my advice on law school and information regarding TYLA programs that are applicable to them. If you have friends, relatives, or mentees who are either in law school or thinking about law school, please share this article with them.

Law School Advice

Law school is a marathon and not a race. The finish line is not graduation, but when you “pass” the Bar. During law school, it is important to do *your* best and learn as much as you can, but measure yourself against yourself. That is, make sure you learn and understand key concepts and legal theories; focus on researching efficiently; and most importantly, learn to write logically, concisely, and persuasively.

Ninety percent of law school graduates in every law school will not be in the top 10 percent of their class. Do not get discouraged if you are not in the top 10 percent. There are other ways beyond grades to make yourself marketable to potential employers. One way is to take advantage of externships or clinics offered at your law school. Externships and clinics give you the opportunity to gain practical experience outside of the classroom, giving you a leg up on your classmates who do not have the same experiences. In sum, your grades will not determine your ultimate success as a lawyer. There are many successful lawyers who were not at the top of their class. Hard work will enable you to reach your maximum potential and determine your ceiling as a lawyer.

TYLA Programs

TYLA has many programs for law school students, including the National Trial Competition and *Ten Minute Mentor Goes To Law School*. The National Trial Competition, co-sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers, is one of the oldest and most prestigious mock trial competitions in the country. NTC encourages and strengthens students' advocacy skills through quality competition and valuable interaction with lawyers and judges. Every ABA-accredited law school in the country is invited to compete in one of the 14 regional tournaments, with the top two teams from each region advancing to the finals rounds held in Texas. The regional tournaments take place in February, and the final rounds will be held in San Antonio on April 3-7, 2013.

Ten Minute Mentor Goes To Law School is an online collection of video presentations created for law school students. The presentations are categorized into one of the following areas: clerkships and jobs, internships, law school 101, and taking the bar exam. Each presentation is 10 minutes or less, practical, and free. In addition, these presentations may be viewed online or downloaded as an MP3 or podcast.

Lastly, the State Bar has a Law Student Division that is designed to enhance law students' participation in the administration of justice, professional responsibility, and public service. For \$15, law students can join the division. Member benefits include: State Bar of Texas section membership, giving law students an opportunity to network with lawyers who practice in the students' area of interest; car rental discounts; discounted life insurance; free CLE materials; and scholarship opportunities. For more information about TYLA programs for law school students and the Law Student Division, please visit tyla.org.

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