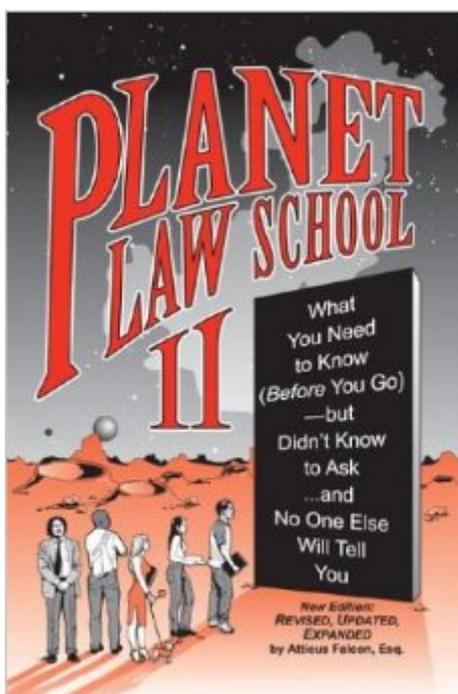


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Planet Law School II: What You Need To Know (Before You Go), But Didn't Know To Ask... And No One Else Will Tell You, Second Edition



Synopsis

This book contains 30 detailed chapters, plus addenda and additional material that set out everything a law student must do to excel in law school ...an absolute requirement for getting a good law job. It is completely updated, with an analysis of hundreds of legal resources and the realities of law school and the legal profession. Its 800 pages are an exhaustive and unique compendium of materials, advice, and precaution for the law student or soon-to-be law student.

Book Information

Paperback: 858 pages

Publisher: Fine Print Press; Rev Upd edition (June 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1888960507

ISBN-13: 978-1888960501

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 6.1 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (178 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #145,062 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Law School Guides](#) #50 in [Books > Law > Legal Education > Legal Profession](#) #93 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Graduate School Guides](#)

Customer Reviews

I read Planet Law School in the summer of 1998 when the book was brand new, in the months before I began my legal studies. It was invaluable. I went to a "Top 10" law school (not literally, but rather as the term is defined in the book) and found the cynical advice to be on point. Law school is a business. Administrations are more interested in attracting and keeping top professors (and in soliciting donations from wealthy/influential alumni) than they are in ensuring their graduates will find fulfilling careers that also enable them to repay their crushing student loans. Planet Law School also accurately describes the socio-academic atmosphere at law schools - the contagious stress and anxiety, bordering on hysteria; the social stratification that occurs based upon class rank after first year grades are issued; the extreme difficulty those with mediocre or low grades have in obtaining respectable and well-paying employment through on-campus interviews. The book is less helpful (but still very enlightening) when it comes to its discussion on how to prepare for and do well in law school. I disagree with the author's theory that virtually any law student who follows his system and

works hard will be able to excel in law school. I believe this is because, mistakenly, the author makes Black Letter Law and Thinking Like a Lawyer seem paramount. At least where I went to law school, these items were only half the battle. I had good friends who were in the top of my class and we often were enrolled in the same courses with the same professors. They consistently received top marks; mine were almost always mediocre.

I wrote a review of PLS before I hit law school, and since I now have a semester under my belt, I figured I'd update my thoughts on this particular tome. First off, I should mention that I just got my first semester grades back, and I am in the top 5% of my class. I'm not going to gush like a schoolgirl and say I owe it all to PLS--after all, I worked hard, and I feel like I earned my grades. But more importantly, I worked SMART, and I think that is where PLS helped me the most. The case method can be a bit of a minefield, and I saw lots of 1L's worrying more about knowing the facts of these cases than knowing the rules that the cases illustrate. By and large, these are the same 1L's who are looking a little morose now that grades are out. I've heard a lot of 1L's promising themselves that they won't get as caught up in the details of the cases this semester; that they'll buy some commercial outlines and worry more about the big picture this time around. That's definitely a step in the right direction, but they'll still have their first semester grades hanging around their necks like an albatross. I'm glad I read PLS, because for all its faults, it taught me the lessons that a lot of 1L's only learned by getting reamed by their first semester exams. It taught me that knowing the cases backwards and forwards will not earn you good grades, and that sounding smart in class doesn't count for a thing. It taught me that the person who studies ten hours per week can get better grades than the person who studies twenty hour per week, if he's getting more out of every hour of study. For me, these lessons have made all the difference between working smart and just spinning my wheels on busy work. Again, PLS has its faults.

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