



1L of a Ride: A Well-Traveled Professor's Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School (Career Guides)

Andrew J. McClurg

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Written by an award-winning professor with wide experience teaching at many different law schools, 1L of a Ride provides a step-by-step navigational guide to both academic and emotional success in law school's crucial first year. It essentially answers the questions, What's the first year of law school really like and how can I make the most of it? Readers learn what to expect, when to expect it, and how to respond to it. Other how to succeed in law school books exist, but 1L of a Ride is the only book that: Addresses each aspect of academic success, including the top five habits of successful law students, effective class participation, how to interact with professors, case-briefing, note-taking, outlining, exam preparation, and essay and multiple-choice exam strategies. Includes both a professor and student perspective, with comments from real law students as they progressed through their first year from beginning to end. Features authentic samples of Socratic dialogue, student case briefs, student class notes, and exam questions and answers. Focuses on practical advice that can be followed by any student from day one. Employs a lively first-person voice, humor, and dozens of anecdotes to bring the advice to life. Relies on educational research to back up advice. Includes input from other law professors, including an interview with five professors of Legal Writing, the course that causes the most angst and complaints from first-year students. Provides up-to-date advice in step with the changing landscape of U.S. legal education, including coverage of technology issues relevant to law students.

1L of a Ride: A Well-Traveled Professor's Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School (Career Guides) Details

Date : Published June 7th 2017 by West Academic Publishing (first published November 17th 2008)

ISBN : 9781634607896

Author : Andrew J. McClurg

Format : Paperback 511 pages

Genre : Law, Nonfiction, Academic, Read For School



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Gisselle says

Great book with very informative and quality advice. I will be sure to keep this book at hand once law school starts!

Jane says

For the incoming law student, 1L or a curious prospective, I think this book is just downright amazing. This is a guide to the first year of law school. The author talks to students about what they need to do in order to succeed. While a lot of it seems very obvious, the author reaffirms his advice by giving student's, and other professor's accounts and opinions on various topics of the first year, thus giving the book an interesting feel (and ultimately comfortability). I think the author does a good job of making the reader feel like they'd love to have him as a professor; he seems genuine, honest and kind of funny actually. I love the fact that this book is kind of no holds barred in that he gives it to you straight up. He doesn't sugar coat anything, yet the author isn't one of those "jaded, don't go to law school" types. McClurg is helpful, informative, and insightful, just what I think the for sure incoming law student needs. If you're sure you're going to law school, and just looking for something to read the summer before to help you understand (at least somewhat) what to expect, check this out.

Queezle says

Not a bad read, but a lot of it is super obvious

Cheryl says

Since I am not starting my first year of law school (1L)for another four months, I cannot rate the usefulness of the book's advice until next May. I will come back and change my rating and review at that time.

As for the book itself, I did not like the author's chatty style of writing and the many times he would state something "scary" only to follow it with "just kidding." I am about to embark on a professional degree and I would have preferred that the book be more professional as well. At one point he shared a vulgar joke from an esteemed law professor (not named) in order to demonstrate that law professors were regular guys, too. For me, it showed older male professors as part of an old boys network engaging in "locker room talk."

I also took exception with some of his claims about how law school compared to other graduate programs. I already have three graduate degrees and don't believe his statement that the caliber of law professors is higher than ones I encountered in undergraduate and other graduate programs. I have been in classes taught

by Nobel Prize laureates of very high caliber. Many of his claims showed the same arrogance. Law school to him, as a law school professor, is the hardest program, the most life-changing, etc. and he succeeded at it, therefore establishing his place among the elite jurists.

I plan to follow some of his advice, recognizing that it is one person's perspective and may not be useful for others. I did, however, get very excited about his inclusion of a school supplies list. I wanted to head to Staples and start preparing my law school study and backpack.

Ana Rosic says

This book was exactly what I needed. As someone with anxiety, I like to know as much as I can about endeavors I undertake and what to expect. This book talks about every single aspect of the first year of law school--both what to expect and how to best face it. It really got me into law school mode and I now understand better and feel ready to tackle the beast.

I'll just have to update this review when my first year is over to see exactly how well it does or doesn't work (no matter my current enthusiasm).

Abby Russo says

I definitely feel like this book will be helpful throughout the first year of law school, but I have to admit, I'm now a little more intimidated about starting!

Gina says

Great, useful information. He is also a Gator Alumni!! Most of this was basic information that I've read about here and there from other sources. I liked the explanation of how to brief cases and outline.

Negative- It was way too expensive!! \$33?? It's basically the size of a novel. Even Getting to Maybe was only \$15.

Adam Yoshida says

Information Packed

Professor McClurg's book is a comprehensive examination of the first year of law school. It's thorough and provides advice on pretty much all aspects of the experience.

Dan Norton says

I can't say for certain how applicable McClurg's advice is for students preparing for their first year of law school as I haven't started school yet myself. However, his advice is identical to the advice I have been given by friends and associates who are currently in law schools so it has to be reasonably accurate. I have heard many students emphasize the need to be outlining notes for finals early in each semester and the importance of preparing briefs for every class case. Additionally, I have incorporated his C.R.E.D.O acronym (Consistent, Rigorous, Efficient, Diligent, and Organized) into my personal mantra I meditate on to start each day.

I feel that this book has prepared me for law school as much as possible and I thank McClurg for making the information engaging through humorous anecdotes when applicable.

Annika Persson says

excellent book for any present or future law student. easy to read and engaging yet very detailed.

Sadie-Megin Daniels says

This was the first book on the recommended reading list for incoming law students at my law school and I can see why. It covers everything from handling relationships outside of law school to what to expect when you come back after the first semester is over. I appreciated the anecdotes the author gave, especially the story of the pro-bono work he did for an elderly man who was so grateful for his help he invited him over to his house and cooked him dinner. This quote stuck out for me: "Most people think of doctors as being the life-giving profession, but make no mistake, lawyers hold people's lives in their hands every day." He does a great job of laying out the significance of being good at this job called lawyering without spending the majority of the book telling you why you ought to take it so seriously. I really liked it and would highly recommend it.

Mike says

A good book but since it is so old there are a lot of things that become confusing. For example he talks about money and how expensive books are or tuition but they are like \$25 for a text book and \$6k for tuition. It would be nice to have an updated version with a comparison that made more sense and would allow readers to understand.

Colin Bradshaw says

Lot of truisms (duh!) but definitely helpful when it came to easing my anxiety about starting this brand new chapter.

Kate Fifield says

Excellent, comprehensive guide to the first year of law school. This book helped prepare my expectations for the nature of the work and the format of classes. It was informative without being condescending and encouraging while being realistic. Prof. McClurg aims this book towards students who expect to be high achievers but notes that not everyone will meet their own expectations. This book pointed out the obvious truth, "not everyone can be in the top ten percent." Literally 90% will not. I've often repeated that to myself throughout my first year of law school. I didn't do everything this book recommended, but the directives for a successful first year helped me keep my eye on the prize and do what I needed to do to be successful. I consider this a must-read for incoming 0Ls.

Tanner says

Hard to tell if this book is actually useful before starting law school, but it's certainly clear, personable, and gave me new insight into the purpose and method of legal education. I especially appreciated the sections on social interaction, like classroom behavior, managing your reputation and forming strong relationships with professors, because I typically get horribly anxious when I don't know the rules for a new situation and miss opportunities.

One star off because the book is a little dated about technology use, the author shills for MBTI personality testing and his use of studies and sources wasn't particularly rigorous. It sometimes had the feel of my high school debate papers, where I looked up any relevant research and shoehorned it in to sound smart, regardless of actual need, relevance or understanding of the source.
