

# **LAW 101**

What Law School's  
*Really* Like



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## What Law School's *Really* Like

The Book and  
Documentary

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## FOR ZEN

... the love of my life, my heart & soul,  
my inspiration, my greatest teacher, my son.



Special thanks to all of the students who participated in this documentary for three years—your time and energy is greatly appreciated, and I hope our collective efforts will help other future and current law students. I also owe a great thanks to all of the professors who took the time to give their advice. Finally, thanks to my research assistants, Melody Vogel, Joni Noggle, Daniel Peabody, and Carrie Laliberte, and to my legal assistants, Kim Baird and Gina Wilson. I couldn't have done it without you! Thank you all!



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# Introduction

For years, I taught classes in Barbri's pre-law program, which was essentially a one-week boot camp to prepare students for law school. I found that most students in the program had no idea what they were getting themselves into. Worse still, I found the same to be true for most of my first-year ("1L") students. I constantly had students in my office in tears or bemoaning the inequities of law school.

So I decided to produce a documentary that could fill people in on what law school is really like. Sure, there are tons of books out there on law school, but I had never seen an actual documentary focusing on what the students thought about law school as they navigated their way through three years in their pursuit of becoming an attorney.

I followed nine of my law students through law school, gathering multiple times a semester so they could share their feelings, thoughts, complaints, and ideas about law school. I chose students of varying backgrounds, ethnicities, and ages. Of the nine, only seven actually finished all three years of law school. The documentary accompanying this book is the end result of our collective efforts. If you are thinking about going to law school, or are currently in law school and looking for a little perspective, then you should find the documentary helpful.

Furthermore, this book that accompanies the documentary will provide additional insight about law school life. Much of the book focuses on input from law students and professors on a wide range of topics, such as doing well on final exams, biggest myths about law school, and biggest regrets about the law school experience, just to name a few.

I hope you find the book and documentary helpful in either making your decision to go to law school, or in helping you succeed in law school. As you will glean from the book and documentary, law school can be an arduous journey, but most feel that it is a journey worth the effort.