

# Introduction

## WELCOME TO LAW SCHOOL

Law comes in many forms. Sometimes it is written on old-fashioned parchment with fancy and important-sounding words. Sometimes it is bound in code with formal written rules. And sometimes it exists in between: in between cases, rulings, and theories. Such “in-between law” is not clear; it evolves, changes, and is hard to see. In law school, you will come to understand this as the common law—a process of judge-made decisions and traditions developed over history. It is a thing (although there is no way to find it in the library). You will learn about it and come to understand it, all without ever seeing it. The same is true with success in law school.

Law school itself has its own common law, and success in law school requires you to understand it. This book tries to reveal that common wisdom by distilling this common law into one hundred rules. They don't guarantee success, but they guarantee you will be well ahead of other students still trying to understand that there is a “law of law school.”

Students and professors all agree on one thing: to succeed in your first year of law school you need to immerse yourself in the experience. There are rules, tips, and theories that are all different for different schools, but there are many principles that will apply generally. And just as the

common law developed in different places over different times yet still can be taught as one unified whole, so certain lessons from law schools also arising from different places and different times can be distilled into rules to help you master law school. This book provides the guide.