

## Nine Steps to Law School Success



# Nine Steps to Law School Success

A Scientifically Proven Study Process  
for Success in Law School

Lisa M. Blasser



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I dedicate this book to my very best friend — my husband, my rock — Billy, and our two perfect miracles. You three (and Clyde and Elvis, of course) are the proof positive that everything in life is possible, *and more*. I choose you three, every time, without fail, over and over.



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# Introduction

Some believe that you need to be “super smart” to succeed in law school. This book, however, scientifically proves that grit is the crucial key to flourishing in law school. If you are capable of following a rigorous study process, you can and will succeed in law school.

There are tons of books and articles on the topic of preparing students to be successful in law school. While you may have heard this before, this book is different than the rest. Really, it is! *Nine Steps to Law School Success* (“*Nine Steps*”) is the first and only book in legal education to present a *scientifically proven study process for success in law school*. The result of an empirical study, the successful law school study process is based on unbiased information received from the combined experiences of real, current, successful law students in the middle of their law school career. The outcome is a linear, chronological, straightforward study process for you to complete before and during law school, as you lead up to your final exams.

While some students may take the initiative to complete the study steps on their own, the data gathered in *Nine Steps* offers law students a system to motivate themselves to complete the study steps. *Nine Steps* uncovers that drive is critical to success in law school — and this book is the first of its kind to provide both the process to succeed as well as the forces that will encourage you to succeed in law school.

*Nine Steps* does not inundate you with scholarly opinions from experts, prejudiced perspectives from professors, war stories from recent law school graduates, tales from hardened practitioners or difficult to understand learning theory. The aforementioned, while incredibly important on their own, convolute the simplicity of the scientific study process necessary to achieve success in law school. With all of the work and anticipation leading up to starting law

school, what you need is a verified, quick guide of what to do, when to do it and a reward system for when you execute each step to keep you going. That's exactly what you get with *Nine Steps*.

Since law rarely intersects with science, Chapter 1 introduces into the law school realm the qualitative phenomenological study, which was the scientific approach used to uncover the successful law school study process.

Chapter 2 presents the study results in nine steps. Each step is accompanied by the successful law students' explanation of how they are motivated to complete each step in the study process by achieving (1) an understanding of course material, and (2) ultimate success in the course. These explanations are the true forces that compel successful law students to engage in the study process. Some steps also contain examples for a quick visual on how to complete the step as well as a "quick tip" about the step from the author.

Chapter 3 describes how to implement the nine study steps into a weekly schedule so you can either hit the ground running the week before you begin your law school career or implement the process at any stage of your law school career.

Chapter 4 stresses the importance of setting realistic study goals to succeed in law school.

Although *Nine Steps* is based on the law school study process, Chapter 1 can be used as a template for anyone who wishes to conduct a scientific study to uncover a phenomenon in their personal or professional life. To encourage more law students, law professors and lawyers to engage in qualitative research to uncover, rather than hypothesize about, phenomena occurring in law school or the practice, this book spends an entire chapter providing a template for and data from the science supporting the successful law school study process. The good news is that if you are not interested in the science, you can skip to the goods — the research results — in Chapter 2, confident that you are receiving an evidence-based, successful, law school study process.

*Nine Steps* is intended for anyone capable of fully investing and dedicating themselves to a process that leads to success in law school, including pre-law undergraduates, incoming 1L law students and current law students who may be struggling to succeed in law school or on academic probation in law school. No matter what your incoming law school credentials and qualifications may be, this book will help you achieve success to your maximum level.

Success in law school is not a mistake; it is the result of a fully executed study process that is executed with passion. Since success is not a fixed trait (and our brains crave learning), anyone can achieve it. Now, go get it. I believe in you!

